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# China

C H I N A T O U R I S M

## JOURNEY TO TWELVE WATER TOWNS

XIAOHE TOMBS IN LOP NUR  
COLOURFUL KUNMING

276

ISSN 1025-577X



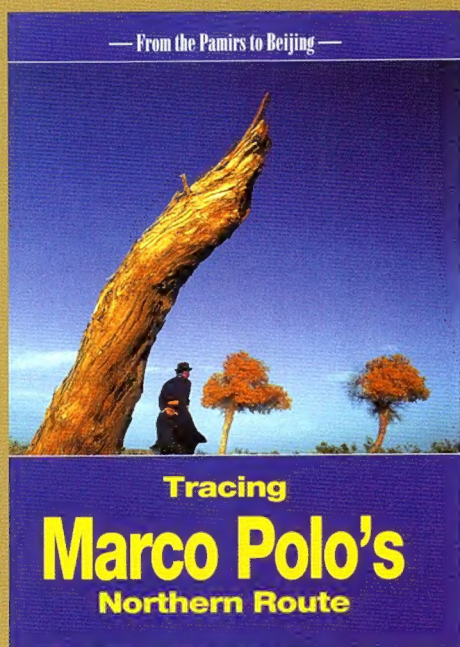
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# Photographic & Practical Guides for Your China Tours

Before you set off for your perfect journey, you may have to prepare your itinerary carefully. Each of the following recommended readings offers different types of information which cater to our readers' various interests: exploring, photography, or tourist information. They will be great guides to your China tours.



## Tracing Marco Polo's Northern Route

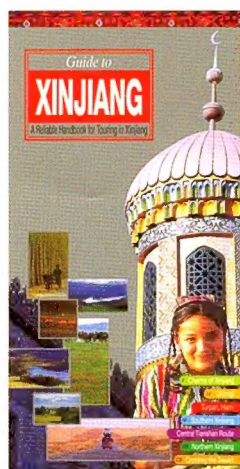
A record of an 80-day journey in which our authors drive their jeep 12,000 km long through the northern regions of China following in the footsteps of Marco Polo's historic journey from the Pamir Highland to Beijing. In a medley of images and words, we present you with the fascinating scenery and various ways of life in Xinjiang, Qinghai, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, and Tibet.

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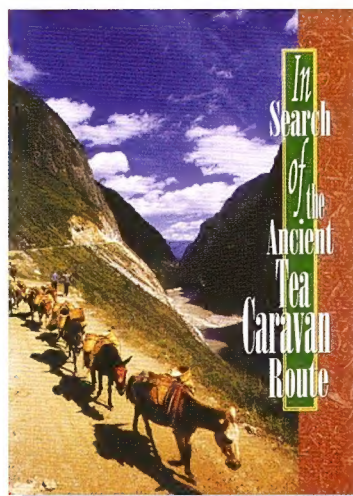
## In Search of the Ancient Tea Caravan Route

The ancient Tea Caravan Route can be traced back to 2,000 years ago, starting from Xishuangbanna at China's southwestern end, passing through boundless forests and valleys to the Sino-Indian, Nepalese and Sikkimese borders on Tibet, the "Roof of the World".

This book is not-to-be-missed by every daring adventurer.



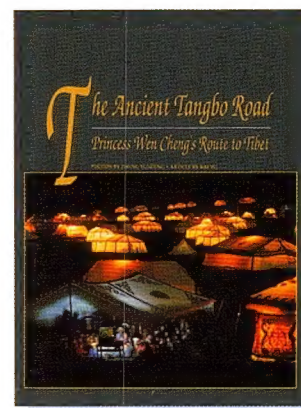
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## The Ancient Tangbo Road

Covering four provinces including Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, and the Tibet Autonomous Region, the ancient Tangbo Road was created on the map when Princess Wen Cheng was sent as a bride to Luoxie (present-day Lhasa) during the Tang Dynasty. Our photographers and writers, who have followed this arduous route, present you the graceful sights and unique ethnic customs on the way.

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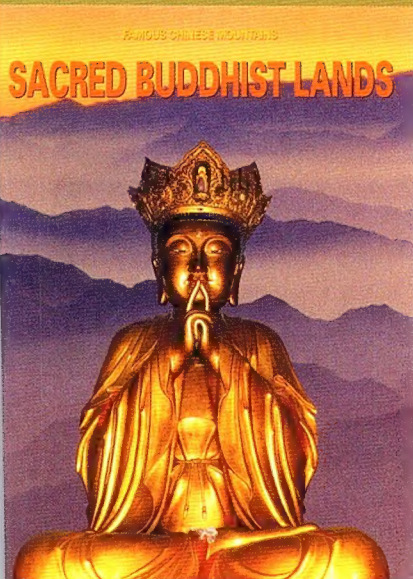


## Guide to Xinjiang

This book is especially designated for DIY travellers who desire to explore the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. There are detailed introduction to scenic spots in five main areas in Xinjiang including Ürümqi, Turpan, Southern and Northern Xinjiang, and Central Tianshan. Practical tourist information on accommodation, ticketing, shopping, local specialty, as well as travel tips are covered.

**HK\$96**





## Sacred Buddhist Lands

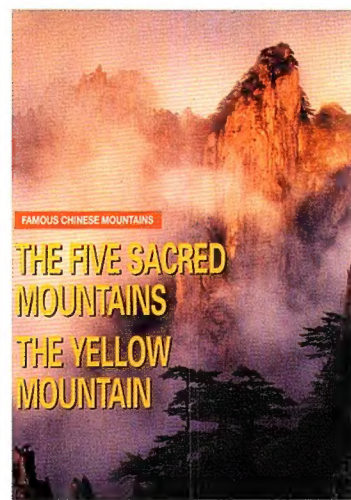
Buddhism in China is inevitably linked with some of the country's best known mountains. And going deep in the mountains and far away from civilization is an ideal place for retreat. Belonging to the four Bodhisattvas respectively, the four most famous Buddhist mountains — Wutai, Jiuhua, Putuo and Emei — are nestled with numerous monasteries and nunneries which have been worshipped by pilgrims for thousands of years. Tourists to these places will totally be soaked in "Kingdoms of Buddhism".

**HK\$156**

## The Five Sacred Mountains The Yellow Mountain

Located in five provinces in China, every of the Five Sacred Mountains — Taishan, Hengshan, Songshan, Hengshan and Huashan — has its magnificent natural and cultural landscapes. Besides, Huangshan (Yellow Mountain), is also famous for its spectacular rocks, pine trees, and sea of clouds. It will be a great enjoyment in reading both the detailed text and remarkable images by our experienced photographers as recorded in this book.

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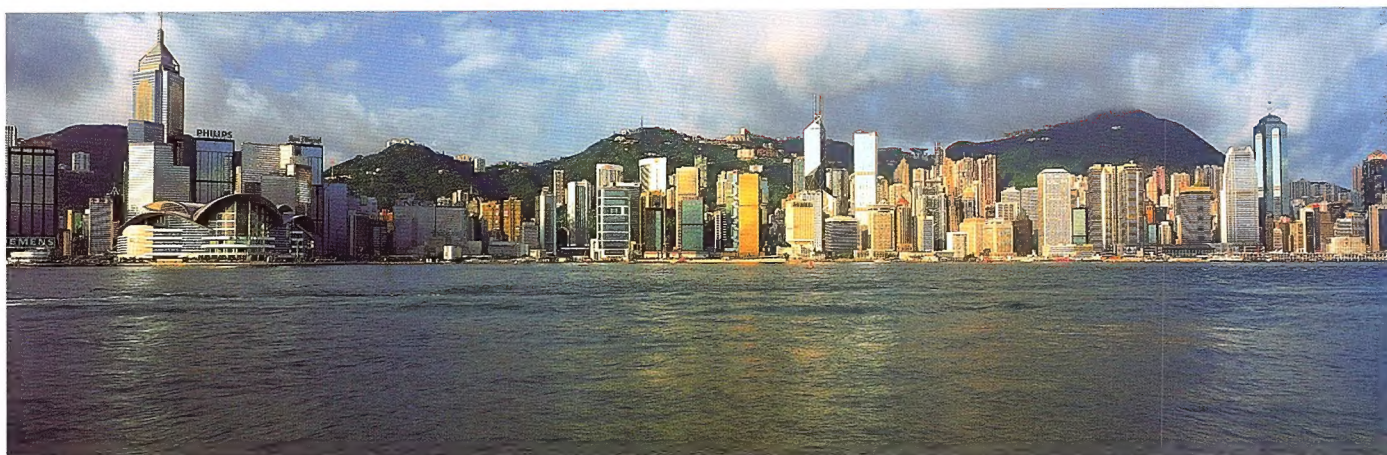
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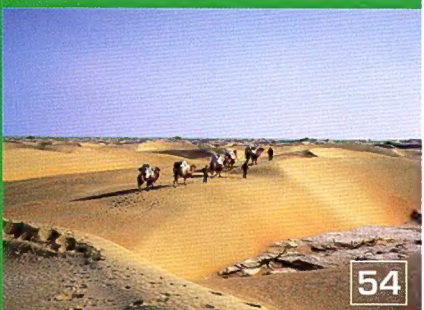
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### A Slow Boat Through China — Twelve Ancient Water Towns South of the Yangtse

Photos by Xie Guanghui Article by Lu Shihu, Xie Guanghui, Jing Diyun

"Jiangnan" refers to the Yangtse River Delta and the vast area between it and the Qiantang River, including southern Jiangsu and northern Zhejiang. During a spring tour in Jiangnan, our correspondents have visited twelve water towns including such little known ones as Dongpu, Keqiao, and Anchang.



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Photos by Li Zhixiong Article by Big Tomato

Most of the times, hasty tourists pass through Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province, as a stopover, without noticing its charm. In fact, the city is penetrated with colourful tastes. There are international standard tattoo workshop, restaurants of unique themes and atmosphere, antique market as well as various delicacies.

## 54 Discoveries Haunting Coffins — In Search of the Xiaohe Tombs in Lop Nur

Photos by Li Xueliang Article by Wang Binghua

The Xiaohe Tombs, revealing a mysterious civilization from 4,000 years ago, has almost been lost in the Lop Nur desert in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region until a group of Chinese scientists started to search for the site in the late 1990s. Even the tombs have been discovered today, there must be many more ancient sites to be explored which prove the once-brilliant history of the Loulan ancient kingdom.

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Photos by Huang Yanhong, Yang Hongyuan, & others Article by Huang Yanhong



# China

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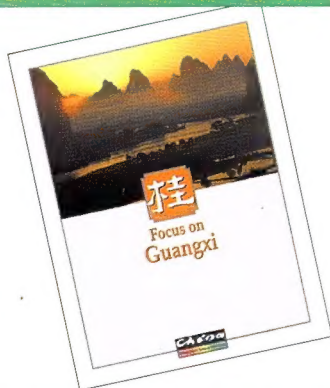
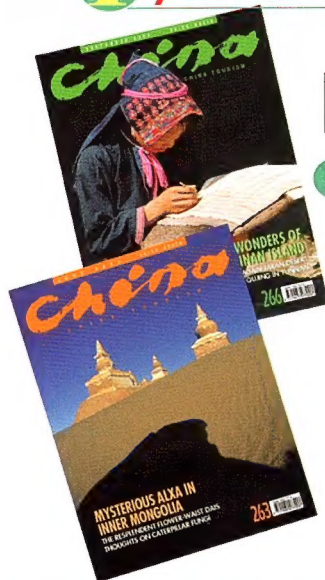
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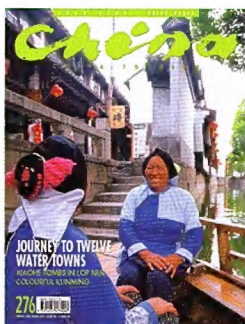
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Women dressed in traditional clothes in Luzhi  
(by Xie Guanghui)



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### Kent Chung: A Journey of Dreams

Photos & article by Kit Chu

One of the best-known professional DIY travellers in Hong Kong, Kent Chung — nicknamed as "Travel Chung" — devotes his life into a career of travelling. Though the shooting of "Pole to Pole Expedition" for the Phoenix TV has brought him special legacies: white hairs and a pair of short sight glasses, he still dares to make dreams and challenges.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

# Rediscovering Lost Treasures

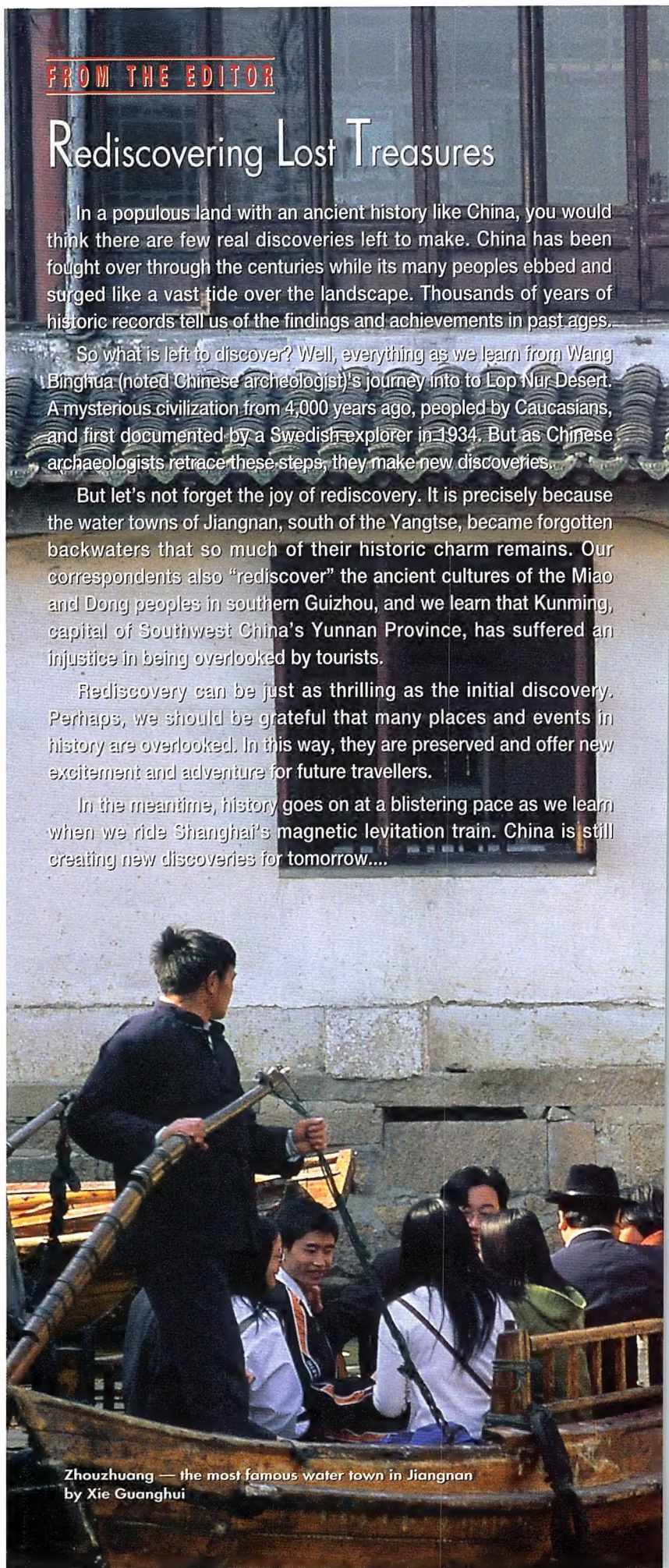
In a populous land with an ancient history like China, you would think there are few real discoveries left to make. China has been fought over through the centuries while its many peoples ebbed and surged like a vast tide over the landscape. Thousands of years of historic records tell us of the findings and achievements in past ages.

So what is left to discover? Well, everything as we learn from Wang Binghua (noted Chinese archeologist's journey into the Lop Nur Desert. A mysterious civilization from 4,000 years ago, peopled by Caucasians, and first documented by a Swedish explorer in 1934. But as Chinese archaeologists retrace these steps, they make new discoveries.

But let's not forget the joy of rediscovery. It is precisely because the water towns of Jiangnan, south of the Yangtse, became forgotten backwaters that so much of their historic charm remains. Our correspondents also "rediscover" the ancient cultures of the Miao and Dong peoples in southern Guizhou, and we learn that Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan Province, has suffered an injustice in being overlooked by tourists.

Rediscovery can be just as thrilling as the initial discovery. Perhaps, we should be grateful that many places and events in history are overlooked. In this way, they are preserved and offer new excitement and adventure for future travellers.

In the meantime, history goes on at a blistering pace as we learn when we ride Shanghai's magnetic levitation train. China is still creating new discoveries for tomorrow....



Zhouzhuang — the most famous water town in Jiangnan  
by Xie Guanghui







## Beijing Plans to Protect Ancient Imperial City

The Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning has officially released the city's Imperial City Protection Plan.

The plan aims to protect the former imperial city as a whole, while the imposing Forbidden City is still emphasized as a key point for protection. It ordered the immediate cessation of buildings of over three floors and those not conforming to the imperial style.

The roofs of buildings in the region are required to be a lime green colour, and glazed tiles, which were once widely used in some pseudo-traditional buildings, should not be overused.

Large-scale public buildings including department stores, office buildings and schools are prohibited in the area, according to the plan.

Traditional quadrangles in the imperial city should strictly stick to their former appearance. Renovated buildings should not exceed their original height. Meanwhile, the authorities will accelerate the clearing of illegal buildings in the area of the former imperial city in the near future.

With an area of some 6.8 sq km, the former imperial city of the Ming and Qing Dynasties stretches from the Chang'an Avenue in the south to the Ping'an Avenue in the north.



## Beijing Renovates Ancient Temple

Beijing, the national capital, is renovating a prestigious Ming Dynasty (1368—1644) temple in its central Xuanwu District, which is expected to open to the public this summer.

The exquisitely designed classical temple, Changchunsi, which was once reputed to be a premier Ming-era temple and sank into oblivion during the mid-Qing Dynasty (1644—1911), consists of several Buddhist-style structures grouped within a circular wall. The temple eventually became a residence for some 200 households over the years.

The people residing in the temple have been relocated to other parts of the city in preparation for the renovation work. The temple will be renovated in compliance with its original shape of wooden structures, courtyard walls and floors to be refurbished accordingly. The work of renovation is scheduled for completion in late October, and the centuries-old temple will be renamed "The Xuannan Culture Museum".

## Bronze Relics Museum Set for Hunan

Ningxiang County in Hunan Province, reputed to be "the centre of South China's bronze culture", plans to build China's first museum of bronze relics.

Sources with the county government said the museum would cover 20 hectares, and would be built in two or three years at a cost of 80 million yuan. A number of fine bronze relics will be shown to the public for the first time at the museum.

Since the 1930s, more than 1,500 bronze relics have been unearthed in Ningxiang County, covering almost all varieties of bronze ware unearthed in China.

## Huqiu Tower to Reopen to Public

Huqiu Tower, or China's first "Leaning Tower", will open to tourists within months after 17 years of monitoring and protection, according to sources with the Bureau of Cultural Relics of Suzhou city of East China's Jiangsu Province.

Built in 959, Huqiu Tower, set on a 34-metre-high hill, is 47.7 metres tall. It is the most ancient building in Suzhou and is regarded as the city's symbol. The tower began to lean in the Ming Dynasty (1368—1644), and its present inclination is three degrees and 59 minutes. It became a national reserve in 1961 and was closed in 1975.

Since 1981, over one million yuan has been spent on the maintenance and examination of the leaning tower. Experts at home and abroad recently proved that the bottom floor of the tower could be opened to the public again.

Copies of the relics that were excavated in the tower will be shown in an exhibition hall on the bottom floor when it is reopened.

## Shanghai International Music Festival Postponed

Due to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in China, the 2003 Shanghai Spring International Music Festival, originally scheduled for May 20 to 31, has been postponed. No new date has been set yet for the music festival.

According to the original plan for the festival, bands from Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy and Australia were due to give performances at the festival, and judges from Russia, Australia and Japan would select and give awards for the best music on the radio both at home and abroad.

Several bands would have made their debut at the festival and a forum on music and a public performance would also be held.



## Archeologists Strive to Protect Relics of Three Gorges

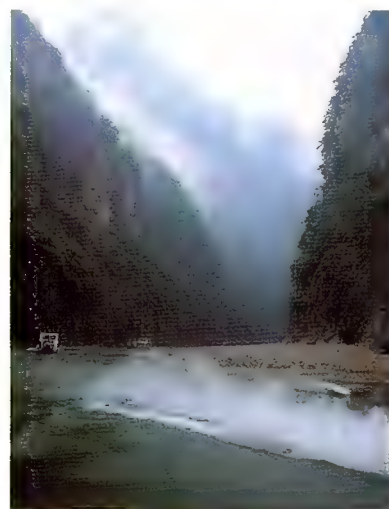
Since the water storage process of the Three Gorges began on June 1, more than 7,000 archeological experts, academics and technicians from across the country have been striving to rescue cultural relics facing submersion under the Three Gorges Reservoir. These officials, consisting of archeologists from two thirds of China's archeological institutions, have turned the reservoir area into the world's biggest archeological worksite.

The archeologists have been busy excavating cultural relics in recent weeks. The sluice gate of the Three Gorges dam closed on June 1, and the water level started to rise rapidly to a planned depth of 135 metres in 15 days.

The artifacts include prehistoric cultural relics dating back to the Old Stone Age more than two million years ago, cultural sites of ancient dynasties from the Xia Dynasty (21st—16th Centuries B.C.) to the Qing Dynasty (1644—1911).

Some nine million square metres of the reservoir area had been prospected by April, and more than 6,000 precious cultural items and 600,000 other cultural heritage items recovered.

China began its cultural relic salvation work in the reservoir area in 1992 when a protection and rescue program were framed, with a total investment reaching one billion yuan.

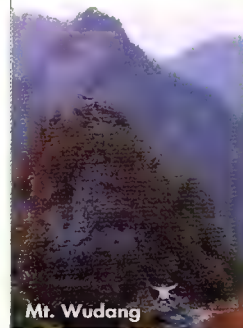


Many advanced modern technologies were introduced to the prospecting and excavation, including remote sensing, ground-penetrating radar and global positioning technologies.

The excavation of the cultural relics buried below the 135-metre water level was completed on schedule. Plans are on the drawing board to salvage other cultural relics after the raising of the water level.

Construction on the Three Gorges Project began in 1993 and it is expected to be completed in 2009, when 632 sq km will be submerged.

## Hubei Hosts Tourism Souvenir Design Contest



Mr. Wudang

Hubei Hosts Tourism Souvenir Design Contest

With many natural and cultural scenic spots such as the Three

Gorges, the Shennongjia Nature Reserve, Wudang Mountain, the Huangke Tower and the historical sites of the ancient Three Kingdoms (220—280), Central China's Hubei Province is calling for tourism souvenir designs from both home and abroad.

The provincial tourism administration has launched a design contest for tourism souvenirs from April to December this year, which is open to both domestic and overseas designers. Designs of all tourism handicraft items, cultural relics replicas and local and special products with distinctive characteristics can be entered in the design contest.

An official with the administration said Hubei had seen increasing revenues from tourism purchases, which accounted for 25 percent of the province's total tourism revenues annually.

## Ancient Town in Southwest to be Revived

Shuhe Township, once a trade post for the Ancient Tea Caravan, is set to regain its past prosperity with the launch of a new protection program. The program, jointly initiated by the Kunming Dingye Group and Lijiang County, involves a budget investment of 500 million yuan and will be completed within three years.

Situated in Lijiang County, Yunnan Province, Shuhe Township is a "living fossil", part of the site's ancient role as an important conduit linking China and the outside world, both culturally and commercially.

Back in the Tang Dynasty (618—907), Shuhe was a crucial post in mountainous Southwest China through which trade caravans sent their tea and leather to Tibet, Sichuan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim and the coast area of the Red Sea.

Although more than 1,000 years have passed, the township still retains its past atmosphere as a cozy village. A square surrounded by stores of various kinds is the only bazaar in the township. Within the township, hemmed in by orchards and green fields, houses are built along three clear streams.

Some ancient houses and historic scenic spots would be protected and a museum established. It is hoped to bring back the township's history and make it better protected.



## Guanque Tower Be Opened in September

**Synopsis** One of the four most famous ancient towers in China (other three are Huanghe Tower in Hubei Province, Yueyang Tower in Hunan Province, and Tengwang Court in Jiangxi Province), the Guanque Tower is located on the Yellow River side west of Puzhou, Yongji city in Shanxi Province.

The tower was first constructed in Northern Zhou period (557—571) by official Yu Wenhui. The architectural style of the tower reveals the flavours of that in the north China which high level of wooden structure had been used. Close to the time-honoured town of Puzhou in the east and turbulent Yellow River in the west, Guanque Tower is a three-story, square-shaped, complex built on a giant rocky base, with spacious platform. Surrounding the tower are ponds which lots of reeds have grown, attracting thousands of storks ("Guanque"). Hence the tower's name.

The tower has been highly appreciated by scholars and literati since it was built. During the Yuan Dynasty, when Genghis Khan (1162—1227) invaded the Central China, the tower was destroyed at a battle. In the Ming Dynasty, it was hit by flooding of the Yellow River again. The reconstruction of the tower was finally approved in late 1997.

(photo by Ge Fengming)

text by Cui Shilai



## Admiring Mills in Muli



**Synopsis** The Muli Tibetan Autonomous County of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, is situated advantageously where the upper stream of Yangtze River, Jinsha (Golden Sand) River, Yalong River, and Litang River pass through. It boasts affluent hydro resources. The locals have utilized this natural resource and built many watermills beside the water bodies. The Wachang District is the rendezvous of the mills. The mills use huge hallowed timber as container, which is connected by a wooden club to the mill. When the grind moves, the wooden club will shake the funnel. The food in the container then flows from a small hole into the eye of the grind, without any man force during the whole process.

**Transport:** One can go from Xichang to Muli. Distance: 250 km. There are three buses daily, departing at 7:00, 7:10, and 7:40 respectively. Time: 8~9 hours. Fare: 53 yuan. The county seat is 120 km away from Wachang District. There are few public buses. The only (or two) bus departs at 7:10. Fare: 32 yuan.

**Accommodation:** Shancheng Hotel (Muli county seat) 20~30 yuan/ night. There is a Tibetan hostel with nice and clean environment, and guests can enjoy electrical-heated shower. It only costs 10 yuan per night. Or stay in the Youdian hostel in Wachang District. Rate: 10 yuan/ night.

## Jilin Diverts Water to Protect Wetlands

**Jilin** Jilin Province in Northeast China has begun a water diversion plan to protect its large area of wetlands in five nature reserves, which are home to state-protected red-crowned cranes, according to the local water resources bureau.

The arid climate in western Jilin over the last few years has caused most of the lakes in the reserves to dry up. Gradually-deteriorated natural conditions have decreased the area of the wetlands, which are inhabited by thousands of rare birds and large areas of wild plant resources.

The provincial water conservancy bureau has invested 17 million yuan in a number of water diversion projects. As a result, the state-protected Momoge Nature Reserve, which possesses 30 percent of the province's wetlands, has been supplied with about 10 million cubic metres of water, with another five million expected to be added by the end of the year.

The province also mapped out a plan to draw water from the Tao'er and Huolin rivers to the Xianghai Nature Reserve, and from the Songhuajiang and Nenjiang rivers to another three nature reserves.



## Tours Spring Up After Lifting of Travel Warning, Dongguan

**Guangdong** Having been influenced by the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Dongguan city of Guangdong Province has recently released the "Dongguan Tour" travel activities, so as to promote travel between Guangdong and Hong Kong.

Since the travel warning has been lifted by the World Health Organization (WHO) of traveling to Guangdong Province and Hong Kong, travel agencies in Dongguan such as Guotai, Qinglu, and Sihai, became active shortly again. They started arranging relevant training to the staffs, providing with fresh itineraries and attractive prices.

In recent years, the "I Love Dongguan Tour" organised by the Sihai Travel Service, which is largely favoured by tourists from other provinces. Though the tour has been stopped because of the outbreak of SARS, several hundred people who have enrolled the tour anticipate in going for the tour again. The travel service has released new theme tours in these days, like "Healthy Tour" and "Climbing Mountain Tour".

According to the general secretary of the Dongguan Tourism Bureau, the local government will give whole support in holding every kinds of competitions or activities to retrieve the tourist industry in Dongguan.

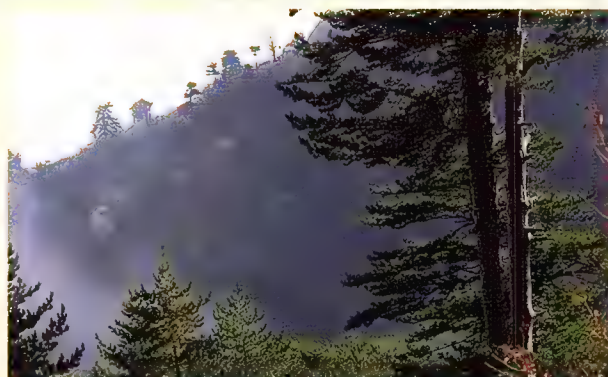
Meanwhile, all the travel services emphasis that they will provide the most clean and tidy tour buses, restaurants and accommodation for tourists, so as to ensure they have a pleasant tour.

## Rafting on Yellow River on Sheepskin

**Inner Mongolia** The Longwan (Dragon Bay) Village in Lanzhou, capital city of Gansu Province, is also known as "sheepskin raft village". A natural village located in the Zhongquan Township, Jingtai County, the village is built along the Yellow River. Everyday, tourists can experience rafting through the river by sitting on the sheepskin raft. The cost is 10~15 yuan per person, and the best rafting period is from May to October. To reach the village, tourists can take a bus going from Lanzhou to Baiyin city. Distance: about 70 km. Fare: 15 yuan. On arrival to Baiyin, take a bus to Longwan Village. There is only one bus daily. Distance: 60 km. Fare: 10 yuan. One can loge at family-run hostel arrange by local farmers. Cost: 10~15 yuan per person.

When boating on the sheepskin raft, one should bare in mind to keep balance. No matter sitting or kneeling, all passengers must spread in average. Standing and sudden motion should be prevented. When rafting, the boat will flow downstream, and the local raft leader will use great force to raft to the opposite bank.

*(photo & text by Chang Qingmin)*



## Huashan—Western Sacred Mountain

**Shaanxi** As one of the five well-known mountains in China, Mt. Huashan is located in the south of Huayin city, 120 km east of Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. It boasts five major peaks, namely Chaoyang (Sun-facing) in the east, Luoyan (Dropping Goose) in the south, Lianhua (Lotus) in the west, Yuntai (Cloud Terrace) in the north, and Yunu (Jade Girl) in the central. Luoyan, the highest one, stands an elevation of 2,160.5 metres above sea level.

Mt. Huashan is famous for its breathtaking cliffs. Along the 12-km-long winding path up to the top are awe-inspiring precipices. The mountain also boasts a lot of places of interests. Here and there stand Buddhist and Taoist temples, pavilions and buildings as well as sculptures and engravings. Other famous scenic spots include Yuquan (Jade Spring), Zhenwu Palace, and Jintian Palace famous.

There is a giant rock in front of Cuiyun Palace on West Peak. As it takes the shape of a lotus flower, the mountain is also called 'Lotus Peak'. As legend has it, Chen Xiang, a filial young man, once split the mountain and rescued his mother out of it. Now a crack can be witnessed in a giant rock beside Cuiyun Palace as if it was made by an axe. Thus, the rock is called "Axe-splitting Rock", beside which is a huge axe with a long handle. The northwest side of the peak is called Fatal Cliff for it is as steep as if cut by a sharp sword.



# Post SARS SAR

Photos & article by Pierre Wong

I can tell you right off the bat — the last month or so has been a major inconvenience. Schools closed, people quarantined, business suspended and tourists no longer coming to Hong Kong. There's only so much a person can take and as soon as the situation improved, I decided to go biking in the countryside.

Little do tourists realize that there is a countryside four or five subway stops from downtown. So after a hearty dim sum breakfast and purchasing the latest digital camera or SLR, one can put the new equipment to the test in our country parks.

If cycling is your sport, one route worth trying is the Tai Wai-Tai Po-Plover Cove Reservoir circuit. Simply take the Kowloon Canton Railway to Tai Wai Station and rent a bicycle at one of the nearby shops. Bicycles can be rented for the whole day at HK\$40, and can be returned at Tai Po; so that saves you from biking back to Tai Wai. Remember to check the tire pressure and make sure the brakes are working. Adjust the seat height so that your legs are straight when pedalling, and don't be too shy to ask for a sturdy bike if you happen to be well built. Most importantly, remember to replenish fluids frequently as heat stroke is a distinct possibility.

Following the bicycle trail, one should approach the Hong Kong Heritage Museum first. The museum has a permanent exhibition on Cantonese Opera that reconstructs a shed theatre and has a backstage on display. There is also a New Territories Heritage Hall that chronicles British rule, trade, coastal defences and the 6,000-year history of the area. The T. T. Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art has ancient Chinese bronzes, ceramics and pottery from different dynasties. Coming exhibitions include "Life in China around the May Fourth Movement" and "Huizhou Vernacular Architecture".

The bicycle track runs parallel to the Shing Mun River and affords the cyclist an interesting array of sights. There are the



floating restaurant, Hong Kong Sports Institute and Sha Tin Racecourse for example. Further along the track towards Tolo Harbour is the Marine Police headquarters which is undergoing redevelopment. This section has seen a lot of land reclamation in recent years, given the fact that a Science and Technology Park is being constructed.



There is also a public pier nearby where organised tours ferry locals to the nearby island of Kat O.

Further pedalling brings us to Tai Po Market, where you can choose to return your bike and visit the nearby Hong Kong Railway Museum. Time and stamina permitting, one can forge on towards the Waterfront Park and all the way to Plover Cove Reservoir. The park has a lookout tower in commemoration of Hong Kong's reunification with China, and offers a good view of the area. An Internet search of Plover Cove Reservoir turned up some interesting results. According to Hong Kong Post Stamps.com, the reservoir is "the world's first massive reservoir carved out of the sea".

If you've made it all the way to the reservoir, congratulations. You've arrived in our Country Parks. There is the nearby Pat Sin Leng Country Park, Plover Cove Country Park and a couple of Marine Parks in Yan Chau Tong (Double Haven). Bradbury Lodge offers hostel accommodation, and according to their website you can go visit the waterfall, mangroves and nature trails. There are also plenty of catering establishments in the vicinity, converted out of the so-called "Spanish Villas". Sit back and enjoy a cold beer, you deserve it.

I spent two days biking the length of this circuit. The first day of biking from Tai Wai to Tai Po Market had already fried me to a crisp, and I didn't want to risk further sunburn. My family asked where I had been, and I was surprised to find that I had biked in a "high risk" area. Apparently there have been a lot of SARS cases in the area. But the number of recoveries has exceeded new cases for the last couple of weeks, so I figured the situation was under control. At any rate, now you know there is more than just shopping in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

1. The Hong Kong Heritage Museum is an ideal place for tourists to know more about Hong Kong culture
2. A fine and windy day for flying kite



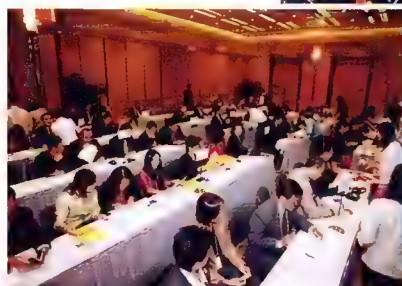
# THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPO HONG KONG (ITEHK)

POSTPONE TO 25~28 SEPTEMBER, 2003

The International Travel Expo Hong Kong (ITEHK) is the largest and most established tourism and travel event in Asia. The ITEHK 2002 had an exhibition area of 10,000 sq m with close to 500 exhibitors from 50 countries and regions, and attracted over 6,600 buyers.

## ■ REMOVAL OF TRAVELLING WARNING BY WHO

Due to the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the ITEHK 2003 is postponed to September (still hosted at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai). But with the removal of travelling warning to Hong Kong and Guangdong on 23 May 2003 by the WHO, it is believed that overseas buyers will have their confidence back to attend the grand tourism event in Hong Kong.



## ■ TRAVELLING TRENDS & SEMINARS

As Asian travel markets have become more mature and sophisticated. As well as traditional tour products, FIT (Free Independent Travel) and special interest tours are seen as new trends. The organizer will organize seminars on new products such as Travel for Education, Cultural Exchanges, Adventure Travel, Fun Travel and



For further details, please inquire at  
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E-mail: travel@adsale.com.hk

Website: www.itehk.com

Study Tours. Besides, frequent travellers, business travellers, parents, among others, invited to speak from the user's point of view at seminars will further benefit the trade players in developing new products and in sourcing first hand information from the market.

## ■ FASHIONABLE TRAVELLING ZONE

A zone has been specially created in this show to promote new fashionable travel, including travel items related to study, golf, spas, environmental conservation, dining, and youngsters. "Hot Spring/ Spa Tours", for example, are one of the hottest travel themes in Asia. Travellers choosing scenic spots with hot springs increased from 24.82% in 2001 to 36.21% in 2002.

## ■ TAPPING THE BIGGEST POTENTIAL MARKET — CHINA

The ITEHK 2003 has the proximity advantage of attracting about 300 first grade Chinese outbound tour operators as host buyers as well as drawing an additional 100 outbound tour operators from Guangdong Province, which accounts for nearly 50% of the total Chinese outbound figure.

News last updated on June 3, 2003











# A Slow Boat Through China

## — Twelve Ancient Water Towns South of the Yangtse

Photos by Xie Guanghui Article by Lu Shihu, Xie Guanghui, Jing Diyun

Anyone who travels through Jiangnan area in spring could face a lifetime of regret if they fail to visit the ancient water towns. Geographically, the term Jiangnan, or the water-land south of the river, refers to the Yangtse River Delta and the vast area between the Yangtse River and the Qiantang River, including southern Jiangsu and northern Zhejiang, where the fertile land is criss-crossed with rivers and canals. As Shaoxing of Zhejiang Province was the capital of the Yue State while southern Jiangsu was the base of the Wu State during the Spring & Autumn Period (770—476 B.C.) and the Warring States Period (475—221 B.C.), this area is deeply influenced by the Wu-Yue culture. During my last trip to Jiangnan, I included the towns of Dongpu, Keqiao and Anchang in eastern Zhejiang in my itineraries of the nine towns of Nanxun, Xitang, Zhouzhuang, Tongli, Luzhi, Jinxi, Mudu, Guangfu and Wuzhen on the better-known track. I was rewarded with the charm of the Jiangnan water-land.



# Nanxun: Silk and Spring Mists

Article by Lu Shihu



**I**t was spring and the hazy drizzle had lasted for days, covering Nanxun in a mysterious veil. I roamed through the town in the rain, trying to get a feel for the place through the blanket of rain.

## ■ South China's Silk Capital ■

The rivers and canals were filled overnight. Everything seemed to be hidden behind a misty screen, the running waters, the bridges, the dancing weeping willows, the women sculling their boats and the students painting the fields. The riverside houses reached out with their corridor arms to embrace the water, displaying the charm of this town on the Yangtse River Delta. On the riverside streets, the houses all have a front door facing the street and a backdoor leading to the river. Many of houses are called "water pavilions" because from their windows they have wonderful views of the river. Residents of these houses are referred to as "families who use the river as their pillow" in classic literary works. The bridges spanning the rivers are different in style and size. Some are stone; others are wooden. While the longer ones cross over a river, the shorter ones only are only long enough connect a household corridor with a

street; and the narrowest allows only the most slender to pass. I passed the 400-year-old Baijian Tower, a residential compound. While walking on the long street lined with houses with black roofs and white walls, corridors, columns and fire-prevention walls, I could see the bridges and docks and their reflections in the water and hear the sounds of fishermen's paddles. These images formed a simple but



Opening spread photo: Night falls on Xitang River where the water and the sky melt into one, and the lights are reflected in the calm water

1. Every riverside family in the old town of Nanxun has their own wharf where boats dock and laundry is washed
2. The ospreys always put on a display for the tourists
3. Walking along Nanxun's main river is like a trip back to the 1930s



elegant traditional Chinese painting that conjured up the history of Nanxun.

China's silk originated in southern China and Zhejiang is one of the largest silk producers. The town of Nanxun in Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province, is the birthplace of Chinese silk. At the First World Expo in London in 1851, the raw silk of Rongji Store from Nanxun, the only Chinese product exhibited, won both gold and silver medals. In 1915,

Nanxun's silk was exhibited at the International Expo in Panama and won another gold medal, together with the famous liquor, Maotai. In 1874, raw silk from Nanxun accounted for 63.3% of the total exports from Shanghai. At that time, Wuxi of Jiangsu Province on the northern shore of the Taihu Lake, was transforming from a rice market into an industrial centre. There emerged the Rong family, who later became China's textile tycoons, and a group of business people involved in the





# Nanxun: Silk and Spring Mists



silk trade. There are various accounts of the wealth they accumulated. Of the four richest families, the Liu family was said to have had 20 million taels of silver, and the Zhang family, 12 million taels. The total wealth of the local merchants was estimated at up to 80 million taels. It was not a small figure as in the late 19th century, when the annual revenue of the Qing government was only around 70 million taels of silver, and in 1894, total industrial investment of China was 60 million taels.

## ■ A Water Colour Painting ■

Following the wet steps, I walked to Wangu Bridge and found in the west a luxuriant forest on the banks of Zhegu (Chinese Francolin) Stream. Crossing the bridge and continuing along the stream, I reached Xiaolianzhuang (Small Lotus Villa), hometown of the Liu family, one of Nanxun's four wealthiest silk traders.

Apart from residential houses, the village also has an ancestor shrine and a garden. The garden is divided into the outer garden and inner garden. The outer garden features a vast lotus pond. On its banks are rockeries, painted pavilions, stone bridges and decorated corridors.



1. The raw silk of Meihengyu store is well-known both at home and abroad.
2. The sounds of fluffing cottonwool continue in the old streets as they have for thousands of years — although tourism has given the traditional craft a new lease of life.
3. The Imperial Bequeathed Archway of the Liu Family Temple at Xiaolianzhuang.
4. Jiayetang Library Building was so named because of the "Qinruo Jiaye" golden inscribed board granted by Puyi, the last Qing emperor.





It looks more like a backdrop for an opera. I mounted a pavilion on the top of a hill. The gurgling water and the green forests and fields, like a scroll of traditional Chinese painting, displayed a poetic charm.

I then crossed the river to visit Cangshulou (Library Building) of Jiaye Hall. Like Small Lotus Village, Library Building is also surrounded by water, making its garden blend into the natural scenery. Its lotus pond is built in the shape of a lotus leaf and by the waterside there are man-made hills built in the images of the 12 animals that represent the Chinese birth years.

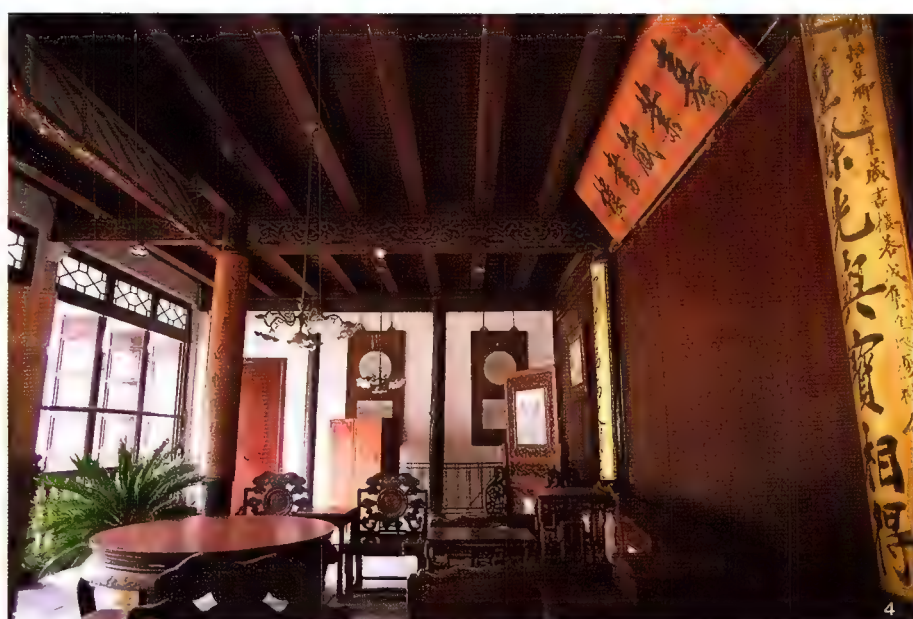
A library had been built in the quiet garden. The building is a two-storey structure in a blend of Chinese and Western architecture. It looks simple, but is in fact unusual.

#### ■ West Meets East ■

The sky cleared the next day and I walked on Dong Dajie (East Street) to its east end. Passing through the fire-prevention wall. The numerous ancient buildings have turned Nanxun into a cultural museum. Nanxi (South-West) Street is also built with fire-prevention walls and houses with inscribed horizontal panels, but roaming through it, one can see the increasing influence of Western culture. Yidetang, with inscription on the panel by the hand of Zhang Jian, was the mansion of Zhang Junheng, a cousin of Zhang Jingjiang. Zhang Junheng was a merchant and a



scholar who passed the imperial examination at provincial level. An enthusiastic collector, he had a vast array of paintings, calligraphy works and stone tablet inscriptions. He also had one of the four largest





# Nanxun: Silk and Spring Mists

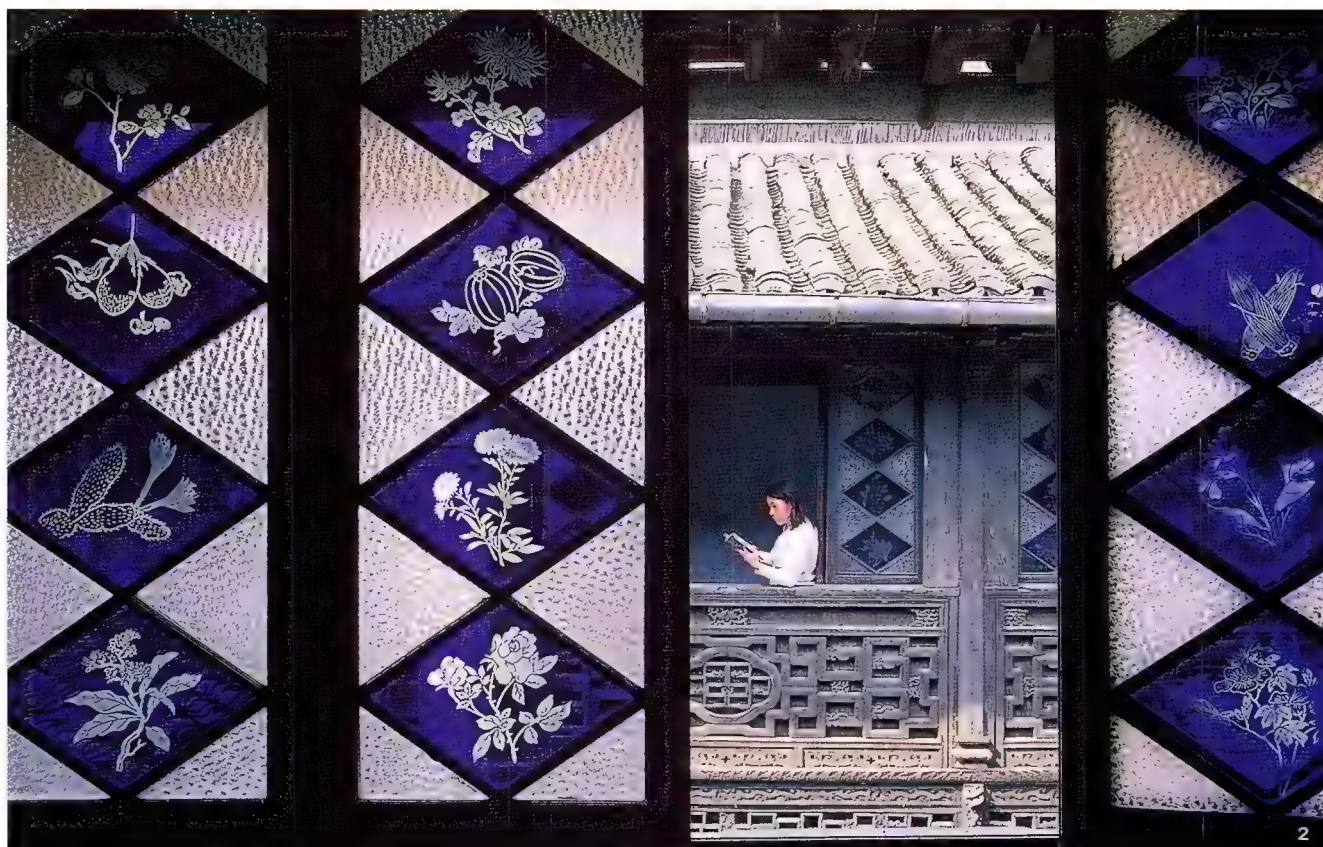


1. Many of the materials for the Western-style Zhang residence were purchased from France, a testament to the owner's pursuit of Western styles and fashions.
2. The blue leadlight windows of the Zhang residence women's hall show Chinese-style patterns, but the custom-made glass was imported from France as early as the 1900s.
3. The Chinese herbal pharmacy in the ancient town uses only genuine medicinal herbs.
4. Tourists can try grinding rice at the authentic old-style Shangji Rice Mill.

libraries of his time in Jiangnan the area south of the Yangtse River. His former mansion, famed as the "No. 1 Mansion in Jiangnan", is a labyrinth. There are "four wonders" in his building materials: the wooden carvings from Dongyang, brick carvings from Anhui, stone carvings of Mount Huangshan and sculpted glass from France. The building standing behind the fire-prevention wall is also French in its architectural style. Its ceramic-paved floor, fireplace, decorated iron columns, spacious dancing hall and lady's restroom were all things unusual at the time, when the men wore long pigtailed and the women had bound feet.

Traces of the blend of Chinese and Western cultures remain in many of Nanxun's scenic spots. The Dongsheng (East Rise) Court in Small Lotus Villa, for instance, is a traditional Chinese building in appearance, but its internal structure, the corridors, ceilings, iron balconies and huge glass windows, as well as the red bricks and white walls, are obviously of European style. The two-storey tower faces wide open spaces on three sides. On its second floor, one can see the vast lotus pond and watch the sunrise. An elderly man told me that in the old days, girls and female members of the family were not allowed to leave their home. It was their entertainment to come to this tower to observe scenes outside the mansion. So it was also called "Lady's Tower".





### ■ Living in History ■

Visiting the Folk Cultural Zone in the southern town in the warm sunshine feels like entering an historic sacred temple or a grand cultural hall. The houses built on the riverside streets are neatly planned; the narrow and winding lanes look like those painted in pictures; in the courtyards of the residential houses, flowers blossom under the bright sun, sending out sweet fragrances. Here and there, the elderly gather to chat, their wrinkled faces showing

their happiness.

Many traditional brand-name shops are open on the old street along the riverside of Xunxi Stream. Their red lanterns and colourful banners, backed by the blue sky and green waters, are lively and eye-catching. Most of the shops have wooden doors, which can be taken off in the morning when the shops open. Their counters stand facing the street. Between the shops, corridors or shelters have been built to link them, showing the neighbourhood harmony. The second floors are





# Nanxun: Silk and Spring Mists



usually a metre wider than the ground floor shops, giving more space to the upper floor while making a shelter for the shops below. This unique design has made the small street even narrower, but has also added more liveliness. In the Shengji Rice Shop, rice is being husked in the traditional way; the Qiuji Sedan Shop is enacting ceremonies with their colourfully decorated sedans. Even today, many locals prefer to hire a sedan and a band of traditional Chinese music for their wedding. In the Nanmai Hengyu Silk Shop, visitors can see how the girls work and try their feet on the silk-drawing machine. In this shop, one is reminded of the past glory of Nanxun with its thriving silk business. The blacksmith has a big smile on his face when he hammers; the House of Southern China String Music

is giving a concert of eight instruments; in Xiaoleyuan (Little Happy Land), traditional customs are demonstrated; and in Gonghe Restaurant, various characteristic local snacks and wines are served. A walk on Laojie (Old Street) gives a wide display of the vivid lifestyle and customs of Jiangnan.

1. Stretching 400 metres, the grey tile roof homes in northern Nanxun Town have retained the architectural style of the Ming and Qing dynasties
2. A Shanghai-style advertising board reveals the influence of the Shanghai business in Nanxun in the 20th century
3. Canals crossing the towns have been an important means of transportation in Nanxun

## Tips for Touring Nanxun

**Location:** The town is located on the border between eastern Huzhou and Wujiang County of Jiangsu Province

**Major scenic spots:** The Jiayelang Library, Xiaolianzhuang of the Liu Family, Yingyuan Garden of the Chen Family, Shiyuan Garden of the Zhang Family, Former Residence of Zhang Shiming, Former Residence of Zhang Jingjiang, Guild House of the Silk Industry, Baijian Tower and the ancient bridges of Tongjin, Hongji and Guanghui.

**Set ticket for all spots:** 45 yuan

**Cruise boat:** 50 yuan/ 8 person/ 45 minutes

**Accommodation:** Yingyuan Hotel      Rate: 150 yuan/ room

**Dining:** Smoke pea tea, tangerine cake, Dingsheng cake

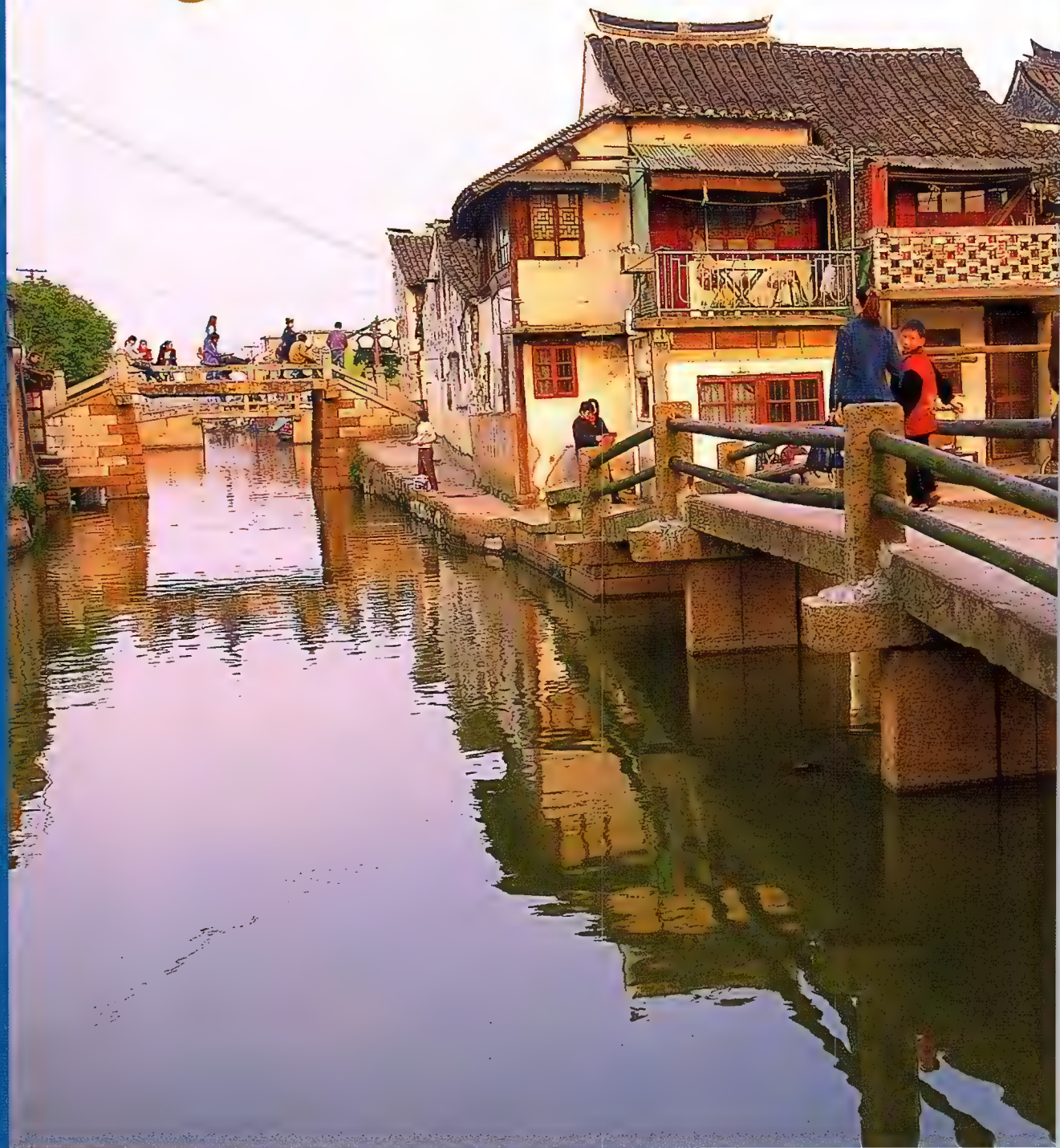






# Xitang: Sitting in Beauty's Chair

Article by Xie Guanghui



**L**ike many old towns of Jiangnan, Xitang is built on a main river, which, like a silky ribbon, connects the residences, shops, alleys and waterways. Looking down at Xitang, the front entrances of Xitang's residences face the

street and the back doors look on to the river, which divides the streets and houses in a lively panorama.

Ancient bridges can be seen from the well-constructed banks, high walls leave diagonal shadows on the glittering surface of the water, tender green willow branches seem to dance in the breeze. A bicycle flies past in the narrow alleyway, a moment later it is gone. A woman is walking through the dark alley with a red plastic tub, going down the

1. Xitang's Beishan Street area is unspoilt in its water town charms
2. The quaint bridges and clear waters of Xitang attract many art students to find inspiration



behind the shop. None of the residences looks spacious from the outside, or special in any way, some even appear downright austere. But walk in and it's another world, the residences are large and deep, with halls, lounges, pavilions and attics, as well as petite gardens with ponds and rockeries, everything in miniature and exquisite, showing the owner's unique eye for beauty and taste for the exceptional. As with all Jiangnan courtyards and gardens, the styles are subtle, quiet, elegant and practical.

The Zunwentang at Xiaijie (Lower West Street) is one of the oldest residences in town. Push aside the painted black wooden doors, walk across the stone doorstep, through the small courtyard, and one sees directly in front a patterned brick gateway. To the west is the Baishouting (Hall of One Hundred Longevity Wishes), named for its five-metre long beam on which is engraved 100 "shou" — a Chinese character for "longevity" — and nine bats with copper coins, since the Chinese character for "bat" sounds like that of "happiness". What took me by surprise were the dragon engravings on the skirting boards of Baishouting. In ancient times, the dragon symbolized the emperor and normal households were strictly forbidden from using



stone steps to the river to do the laundry.

### ■ A Doorway to Hidden Worlds ■

At Anjing Bridge, I cross the gateway from the west, and enter the busiest street in the town — Xijie, or West Street. The stone paved street is three to four metres wide with shops on both sides. While the shop fronts are far from expansive, the houses are longer than they appear. Some families live above the shop, some live





# Xitang: Sitting in Beauty's Chair



any dragon motifs.

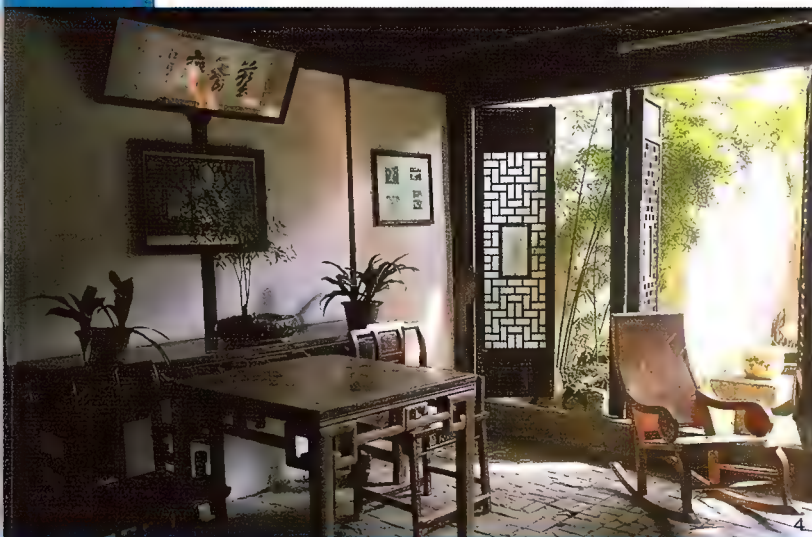
Zunwentang's neighbour is the Zhongfutang. Between Zunwentang and Zhongfutang is Shipi Alley, less than one metre wide. In the old days, wealthy families did not often use their front entrances, so there is often a small entrance at the side of the house that leads out to the alley, normally only used by women and servants. Men did not use the alleyways — dictated by the feudal belief that men were the superior gender.

Xiyuan, or West Garden, is situated in Xijie's Jijia Alley. Because the lushly landscaped garden, made up of delicate pavilions and intricate rockery amidst pretty ponds, was a pleasant tea-drinking backdrop, it soon became a center for the local intellectuals and artists.

## Corridors of Peace

Across Huanxiu Bridge from the south of Xijie, is the famous "Yanyu Changlong" (Smoky Rain Long Corridor) of Xitang. It refers to the roofed corridors commonly seen in Jiangnan's towns or what locals call "yiluoshui" (a curtain of water). Xitang's awninged corridors total over 1,300 metres, mainly in the areas of Chaonan Dai, Nanpeng Xia, Liren Jie and Chaodong Dai, but the best-preserved stretch is this Smoky Rain long Corridor, more than 160 metres long, that starts in the east from Beishan Street and extends to the Laifeng Bridge in the west. Looking over, one sees a neat row of wooden columns evenly spaced along the river, holding up the three to five-metre wide roof that provides shelter from both the sun and rain. Walk along the corridor and you'll find the side near the river is conveniently fitted with long chairs for people to relax. The chairs have armrests and backrests, and in parts have two layers of engraved patterns called "Meirenkao" (Beauty's Chair).

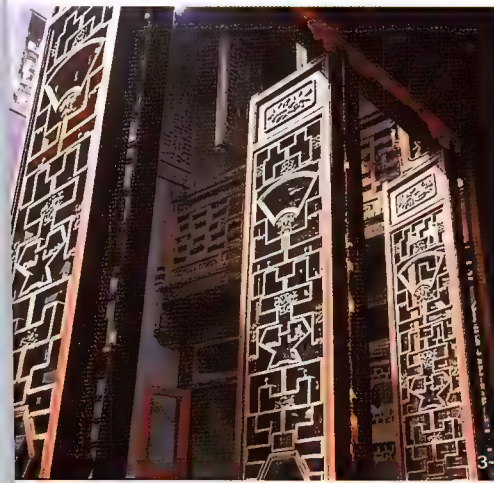
When the weary traveller rests comfortably in the Beauty's Chair and watches the boats cruising leisurely on the river, while soft willows drift lightly at the water's edge, the sense of peace and relaxation is total.



1. Xitang's specialty "Eight Treasures Cake", also called Qiangao, boasts eight kinds of herbs and each slice is so thin that one has to marvel at the artistry of the knifework
2. Qiantang Renjia is a structure typical of the Jiangnan water town style, situated at the edge of Yongning Bridge where the view from the shop takes in everything
3. Xitang old town has around 250,000 square metres of perfectly preserved Ming- and Qing-Dynasty architecture, and the exquisitely carved wooden doors and windows can be seen almost everywhere
4. Ordinary residences do not look spacious or luxurious from the outside, but once you enter, you find them complete with halls, pavilions, attics and petite gardens of rockeries and ponds
5. The quiet and unadorned nightscape of Xitang ancient town







### Tips for Touring Xitang

**Location:** Xitang is 90 km east of Shanghai, and 110 km west of Hangzhou

**Major scenic spots:** Zhongfu Hall, Ni Mansion, Wolong Bridge, Yanyu Long Corridor, Songzi Laifeng Bridge, Huanxiu Bridge, Shengtang Hall, Shipi Alley, West Garden, Buttons Museum, yellow rice wine exhibition hall.

**Set ticket for all spots:** 40 yuan. The boats take up to 12 people, the half hour cruise costs 80 yuan.

**Transport:** Take daily tourist buses from No. 5 gate of the Shanghai Xuhui District Stadium or the Pudong Jiuli Square (1.5 hours). From the Hangzhou east bus station there are four express buses to Xitang daily (1.45 hours).

**Accommodation:** Yuyuan Hotel Rate: 90 yuan/ room

**Dining:** Mingqing Shidai is a small-sized Chinese restaurant located between Anjing and Yongning bridges. It features dishes of Hangzhou, Sichuan, Guangdong, and Taiwan. Qiantang Renjia is near the Yongning Bridge with the view of the water-town and local cuisine.





# Wuzhen: The Charm of a Riverside Town

Article by Jing Diyun

One morning in spring, roaming through cobbled lanes, the aroma of tea drifting through the air and the sounds of the sculls moving on the water all combine in the charm of an ancient town in Jiangnan, or the Yangtse River Delta.

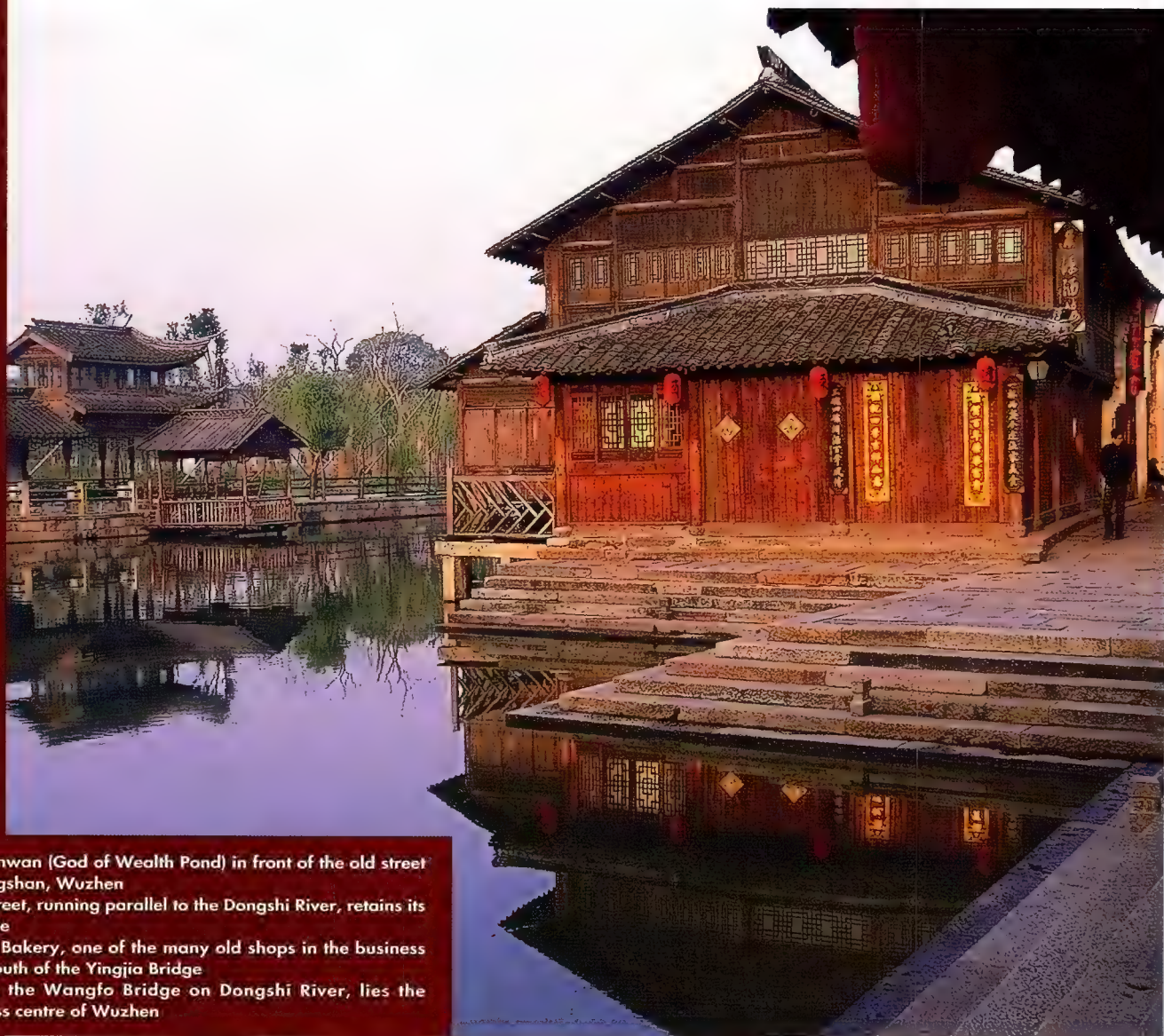
Though small, Wuzhen serves as the hub of both land and water transportation. It is no larger than an average size county seat. Rivers and canals form a network of waterways, and the numerous stone bridges, deep lanes lined with high walls, as well as the riverside pavilions with upturned eaves, provide an idyllic atmosphere found only in the Yangtse River Delta.

According to historical records and the memories of its senior citizens, Wuzhen used to be rich in cultural relics, but

many of these have vanished. Among those that survive are the Zhaoming Study, the Tang Dynasty Gingko Tree, the Theatre of Xiuzhen Temple, Lizhi Academy, Wenchang Tower, the Former Residence of Mao Dun and the bridges of Tongji and Renji.

## ■ A Cradle of Literature ■

In ancient China, the imperial examination was a major criterion to assess local education standards. According to historical records from the Song (960—1279) to the Qing Dynasties (1644—1911), Wuzhen had 161 scholars pass the provincial examinations, of whom 64 succeeded in the highest-level exams given by the imperial court. In addition, seven Wuzhen natives served as army officers, and 136



1. Caishenwan (God of Wealth Pond) in front of the old street of Dongshan, Wuzhen
2. East Street, running parallel to the Dongshi River, retains its old style
3. Gusao Bakery, one of the many old shops in the business area south of the Yingjia Bridge
4. Across the Wangfo Bridge on Dongshi River, lies the business centre of Wuzhen





the small lanes.

Advancing to the riverbanks, the vistas become wider and brighter. On the river, the reflections of the houses in the old streets keep changing their fantastic formations. Now and then, the small boats sail by, breaking the tranquility.

A traditional home in this area usually contains three storeys, each with three rooms. Between each house there is a small courtyard. Houses of the wealthier families mostly have five storeys, with five rooms in each. Their outer walls are always built high to break the wind and to prevent fire. The Wuzhen people like to call their house

officials were honored. The skills of Wuzhen were unmatched even by medium-sized cities, not to mention small towns of its own size.

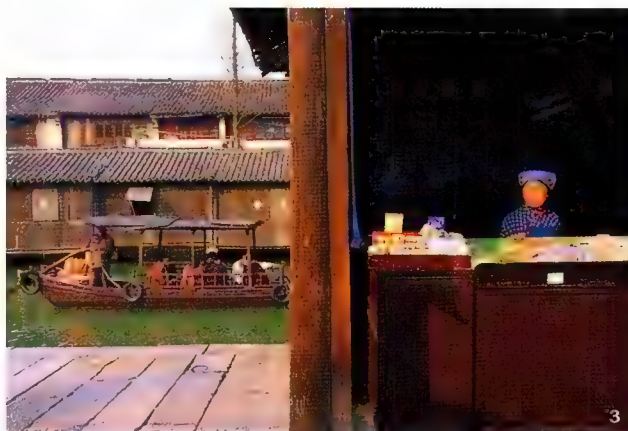
Ming Dynasty literary figures such as Wen Zhengming and Zhu Zhishan had also made frequent visits and left their mark.

Mao Dun (1896—1981), a writer, was born in the Guanqian Street. On the front gate of the house where Mao Dun once studied, there is a horizontal panel carrying the words "Childhood Reading Place of Mao Dun". Mao's novel *Midnight* is considered as a masterpiece of contemporary Chinese literature.

### ■ Old Streets and Deep Lanes ■

These old streets are designed in a unified style: all roads paved with bluestone; walls built with a horse-head top separating the shops or houses; and most of the doors made of wood, with broken carvings and fading paint. Occasionally, you find arched gates in a lane, one on either side of the street, facing each other. These used to be landmarks of the wealthy family homes. The old streets all lie along rivers, with houses built between the street and the river, and a pier in every section. Each street is about two kilometers long. It may take half a day to walk through them, not including the time spent exploring

"halls". Some well-preserved halls are worth visiting. For example, the Xu Family Hall has excellent woodcarvings. Almost every piece of wood in the structure is decorated. Some are patterns of flowers, fruits, birds or beasts, others are utilities for daily use. Their style is obviously of the Dongyang carving school. The Xu Family Hall now serves as the Museum of Jiangnan Carvings. Woodcarvings found in other houses of Wuzhen are also displayed here.





# Wuzhen: The Charm of a Riverside Town



Like other towns in the water-land of Jiangnan, Wuzhen also has houses built on the riverside. But in a way, Wuzhen is the original town to "use the river as its pillow". Many of its houses have extensions into the water. With wooden or stone pillars planted in the middle of the river and planks laid above, these houses are called "shuige", or water pavilions, something unique to Wuzhen. A water pavilion has windows on three sides, providing advantageous posts to watch the river scenes. At night, asleep in a water pavilion, listening to the murmurings of the water, one is assured of beautiful dreams.

## ■ Fangluge, the Best Teahouse in Wuzhen ■

Teahouses in the Yangtse River Delta are usually small, but

they have their unique characteristics. If Lao She, the great playwright, had not chosen a teahouse as his subject, the teahouses of Beijing would have never become so widely known. Teahouses in Fujian and Guangdong are actually restaurants for breakfast. In the teahouses of Wuzhen, what you taste is indeed the tea and the flavour of local life.

Wuzhen is such an enjoyable town that its teahouses are all poetic. Most of the rural teahouses are built on the riverside close to a pier

One day, I got up early and hired a pedicab. Riding through the empty street veiled in mist, I reached the tiny teahouse at Xishan. In its glory days, there were more than 60 teahouses in Wuzhen. As restaurants, teahouses are divided into



1. Children from Mt. Tiantai having breakfast on a riverside terrace
2. A riverbank corridor where you can take the weight off your feet
3. Bamboo root carving is one of the traditional handicrafts of Wuzhen
4. Fresh local delicacies in the traditional workshop area

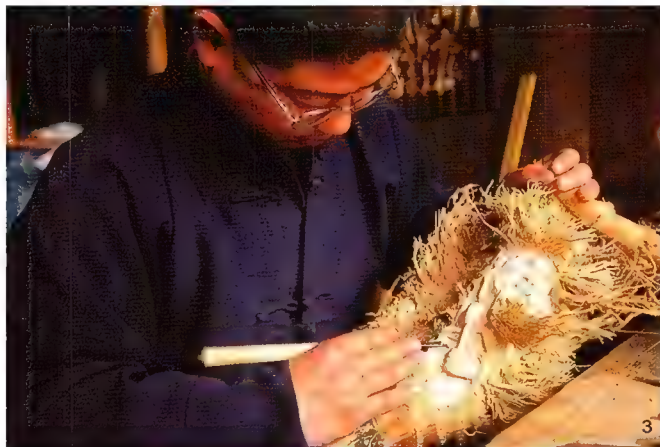


different grades. Among the first grade in Wuzhen are such famous names as Fangluge, Sanyilou, Changchunlou, Yidongtian, Mingyuelou and Tianyunlou, all in the downtown area and frequented by the aristocracy. As for those scattered on the outskirts, the customers are mostly farmers who have come to town to sell their produce. Some continue hawking beans and vegetables while drinking tea. The first grade, elegantly decorated, are called jiezhuang, or "street houses". The latter, popularly known as xiangzhuang, or rural houses, are livelier and closer to the common people. The other difference between the two groups of teahouses is that rural houses open only in the morning, while street houses often continue their business in the afternoon.

Most of the rural teahouses are built on the riverside close to a pier. The customer may park his boat at the deck, or, when someone wants to buy his goods, he drops his teacup immediately and goes back to his shop at the street corner. Usually, the old customers all have their fixed seat. For them, to visit the teahouse means to come home.

The new Fangluge Teahouse has been rebuilt on its original site, near Yingjia Bridge, between the Chexi and Dongshi rivers, facing Central Street. It is a popular place to admire the river views while sipping tea. In addition, the high walls of the Hanlinfudi Hotel, the upturned eaves of the Xiuzhen Temple, the solemn Wenchang Tower, as well as the bustling Guanqian Street, are all in sight. Fangluge is widely acknowledged as the best teahouse in Wuzhen and visitors all

come here to enjoy the refreshing tea, scenic waters, bridges and lively town life. The attractive teahouses appeared in my dreams long after I left Wuzhen.



### Tips for Touring Wuzhen

**Location:** Wuzhen is west of the Grand Beijing-Hangzhou Canal

**Set ticket for all spots:** 45 yuan

**Transport:** From Shanghai: Shuttle buses from Shanghai Bawaren Stadium (Gate 5), Hongkou Stadium (Gate 2) or Jiuli Plaza of Pudong; Ticket: 110 yuan/person, including round ticket and entry charge, or 128 yuan to include a tour guide. From Hangzhou: A bus sets off for Wuzhen from Wushan Plaza at 9 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays; fare: 98 yuan/person, including round ticket and entry charge; a bus sets off from the East Bus Terminus of Hangzhou daily every one and a half hours, fare: 20 yuan/person.

**Accommodation:** Hanlinfudi Hotel, 200 yuan/ room. One can also choose a family inn situated on the riverside, which has a wonderful environment but is not equipped with an indoor bathroom.



# Mudu: Bridges Through Time

Article by Xie Guanghui



1. Xiangxi (Fragrant Creek) is so named because the famous beauty Xi Shi once washed her face here and her rouge left the river smelling of her fragrance
2. A cup of tea tastes the flavour of water towns

Most of the ancient towns in Jiangnan developed from a village to a rural market, and then to a town. Mudu is exceptional. It was a town of military importance for which the Wu and Yue states repeatedly battled during the Spring & Autumn Period.

Located 10 km west of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, it is near Taihu Lake. Xujiang, the oldest canal in China, starts at Xumen in Suzhou, passes Mudu to Taihu Lake

and continues its way to join the Yangtse River via Yixing, a path of 230 km. In ancient times, ships carrying grain and other commodities, as well as passenger ships, sailed back and forth on the Xujiang River and most of them would stop at the Mudu Port. There were also many rafts of timber or bamboo floating on the river. On the bridges, merchants from the south and north rubbed shoulders.





## ■ An Emperor's Hideaway ■

Mudu is not only a commercial town, it also boasts charming scenery featuring green hills and elegant waterways. It is unusual among the numerous ancient towns in the Yangtse River Delta, having both busy commercial activities and a quiet environment. Because of this, local merchants built their distinctive mansions in

town and literati from other places also came to settle in Mudu, their small but exquisitely built gardens emerging one after another, adding a cultural atmosphere. In addition, the Qing Emperors Kangxi (1654—1722) and Qianlong (1711—1799) visited Mudu several times, and structures such as Jiejiating (Emperor-Greeting Pavilion) and Yumatou (Royal Dock) were constructed. Shantang Old Street is the road that the emperors once took.

Private gardens are mainly distributed in Xijie Street, Shantang Street and Xiashatang. Following Shantang Street along the riverside, I reached Duanyuan Garden (the locals also called it the "Yan Family Garden" after the owner's surname) situated north of Anqiao Bridge.

Entering the Yan Family Garden, I visited the Shangxiantang Hall. Then I went through the inner courtyards. On the sidewall of one I saw a picture of Yan Jiagan with Chiang Kai-shek. Yan Jiagan was born in Mudu in 1905 and entered the Taowu Middle School in Suzhou when he was 12. After graduating from the High School Affiliated to the Dongwu University, he was enrolled in the St. John's University in Shanghai, majoring in Theoretical Chemistry. Yan graduated at the age of 21 and became a politician when at 35. After Chiang Kai-shek died in 1975, Yan served as the Prime Minister of the Kuomintang government in Taiwan.

Pavilions, terraces, halls, rockeries, corridors, bridges and ponds adorn the Yan Family. Flowers of each of the four seasons grow in different gardens, forming four characteristic scenic zones. In the 1950s, when the local government renovated the major Suzhou gardens, it ordered the rockeries in the Yan Family Garden to be moved to the Lion Grove Garden. This incident is a heartbreaking memory in many Mudu residents.





# Mudu: Bridges Through Time in Mudu



Walking out of the Yan Family Garden and continuing my journey along Shantang Street, I passed the Mingyue (Bright Moon) Temple and reached the Hongyin Mansion, where the Qing Emperor Qianlong watched an opera.

As soon as I stepped into the Hongyin Mansion, I saw the theatre built in a “凸” shape. Beyond the corridor on the left was the Xiuye Garden. In a tower in this garden, a decree issued by the emperor and the wooden trunk carved with dragons, in which decrees were held, were displayed. The garden on the right side is called Xiaoyin Garden, where the queen of embroidery of the late Qing Dynasty, Shen Shou, once lived. Shen's work Portraits of the Italian Emperor and Empress drew high acclaim when it arrived in the Italian capital, Rome, as a gift from the Qing government.

## ■ Standing in the Flower Basket ■

In front of the former residence of Feng

Guifen, another famous figure of Mudu, stands a huge screen-wall built of glazed bricks. Behind the wall is the Xujiang Port. The granite steps leading to the water are as smooth as shining mirrors, demonstrating their long history. Feng Guifen won the second place (Bangyan) in the imperial examination that he took in the Qing Dynasty, so his residence was also called Bangyan's Mansion.

Inside the mansion, along the west corridor and turning right, I

1. Qing emperor Qianlong made many visits to Mudu on his tour of the South and watched operas at the ancient stage of Hong Yin Shan Fang
2. The Nanjie covered bridge, built in the late Qing Dynasty, is one of the most distinctive old bridges in Mudu
3. The four large characters “Hong Yin Shan Fang” were written by Liu Yong, the famous prime minister of the Qing Dynasty
4. Within the Xiuye Garden of the Hong Yin Shan Fang are displayed the emperor's imperial edicts





reached the Hualanting (Flower Basket) Hall, which is the heart of the mansion. Instead of being planted on the ground, the columns in the hall are hung from the

beams, forming the shape of a flower basket. Hence the hall's name.

Outside the back door of the mansion is Nanjie Street, which has retained the ancient town's features with residential houses built on the riverbanks or by the bridges. Of the bridges in this street such as the Xi'an Bridge, Xiaorihui (Little Sunshine) Bridge, Longqiao (Corridor Bridge), Jili (Auspice) Bridge and Taiping (Peace) Bridge, Longqiao is the most attractive. Built in the early 20th century, it has a roof of black tiles and wooden balustrades on both sides, hiding its users from the sun and the rain. Furthermore, it offers an advantageous position for admiring the ancient town and the river.

### Tips for Touring Mudu

**Location:** Mudu is 10 km west of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province

**Major scenic spots:** Yan Family Garden, Hongyin Mansion, Ancient Pine Tree Garden, Bangyan's Mansion, Panyin Cottage, Mingyue Temple, Lingyan Hill, and the Nanjie Corridor Bridge

**Set ticket for all spots:** 35 yuan

**Cruise (8 passengers):** 10 yuan/ person/ 0.5 hour

**Transport:** Tourist Bus No. 4 and buses No. 20 or 38 from the Suzhou Railway Station to Mudu, 30 minutes; travellers from Shanghai can take a shuttle bus at Gate 2 of the Hongkou Football Ground or Gate 5 of Shanghai Bowanren Stadium, which sets off at 8 a.m. Time: 90 minutes, fare: 100 yuan

**Accommodation:** Dianli Hotel Rate: 120 yuan/ room Tel: (512) 6262368

**Dining:** Shijia Restaurant: crabs from Taihu Lake, etc.





# Shaoxing: Drifting on Black Awning Boat

Article by Xie Guanghui



**A**n early morning in spring, the bus drove over the three bridges of Hangzhou's Qiantang Jiang river from Xiaoshan and entered Shaoxing on wide cement roads, with the Hangzhou-Ningbo railway running parallel on the right; while on the left lay the 20 to 30 metres wide ancient canal of eastern Zhejiang. In fact, the canal is a southern extension of the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal and a main waterway for people travelling to eastern Zhejiang in the old days.

## ■ The Mountain that Became a Lake ■

Our first stop in Shaoxing is Donghu, or East Lake, three kilometres to the city's east. Donghu used to be a lushly forested mountain. Legend has it that the First Emperor of Qin, on his eastern tour to commemorate the great ancestor, Dayu, passed through here and used it as a scenic rest stop. Later the mountain was named Ruokui. Then in the Sui Dynasty, Yang Su ordered the expansion of Shaoxing. Being a typical water town of Jiangnan, Shaoxing had abundant criss-crossing waterways and more water than land, so its timber was mostly reserved for ship-building. Also, given the high humidity of the region, wood rots and clay crumbles easily, so the best material is stone. Locals use it for paving roads, building bridges and embankments, erecting buildings, even coffins for the dead are made from stone. This led to a surge in the demand for stone, and like a block of pastry from which

noodles are shaved, Mt. Ruokui was stripped layer by layer, great slabs of stone were carried away on men's backs, horses, on boats... to go into town, to build the snaking waterways, long ancient towpaths, stone-arched bridges, stone-paved alleys, stone walls....

At the end of the Qing Dynasty, Tao Jun Xuan, a local tycoon who ran coal mines and silk factories, donated 8,000 silver dollars to build a 600-metre stone dyke at the south of Mt. Ruokui to separate the canal and the lake, using the rock faces formed from the excavations, he built bridges and roads, added mansions and pavilions, landscaped gardens, and named it Donghu, and people later called him the Master of Donghu.

Taking a black awning boat from the lake's edge to cruise around Mt. Bijia, one finds a huge rock face. Further on there is the Taogong Cave, in which stunning rocks abound and the winding way into the cave

1. Donghu has shed its quarry origins to become a famous tourist attraction
2. In the centre of the Yu Emperor Temple's main hall stands the sculpture of Dayu holding the jade instrument Gui, looking stately and regal
3. Anyone who has read "Kong Yiji" by Lu Xun knows of the Xianheng Tavern in Shaoxing, and many a visitor stops for a drink of Shaoxing wine at the Xianheng Wine Shop and to eat aniseed peas
4. Old men rowing black awning boats feel worry and depressed about the changes in Keqiao







brings one face to face with the steep cliffs, the gem-like water of the lake, while the reverberations and echoes of one's voice add an extra dimension of enchantment. Leave the boat and come ashore at the Tingqiu Pavilion, walk up the mountain for a bird's eye view, at the foot is the mirror-like water, while a snaking long dyke connects the beautiful mountain with the clear water, the stone bridges, such that Donghu is segmented into the Chinese character "品", the black awning boats float to and fro, and in their gentle movements one derives a sense of





# Shaoxing: Drifting on Black Awning Boat



the pure beauty for which Jiangnan is famous.

But for most tourists, their knowledge of Shaoxing probably all came from the great writer Lu Xun (1881—1936).

## ■ Drinking at the Xianheng Tavern ■

Lu Xun was born in 1881 to an impoverished but educated gentry family in Duchang Fangkou in Shaoxing. He was named Zhou Shuren with the title Yushan. Lu Xun is the nom de plume the writer later adopted. Lu's grandfather Zhou Fuqing belonged to a wealthy family in Shaoxing, but times changed and the young Lu Xun began to shoulder life's burdens in the family. Frequently he ran between the pawnshop and the pharmacy as his father's medical bills ate away the rents collected from letting out the family residence.

Scholastic families usually shun the wheeling and dealing of business, but the pressure to make ends meet meant no other choice and the Zhou family opened a tavern in Shaoxing named "Xian Heng". After running the tavern poorly for three years, the Zhou family finally closed up the shop. That year Lu Xun turned 16. He received a traditional education before he attended the state-run Jiangnan Naval Academy and School of Railway and Mines in Nanjing. After graduation he went to Japan where he studied the Japanese language and then medicine at Sendai Provincial Medical School, but while he was in Japan he was so struck by the foolishness and weakness of his compatriots that he dropped out of school to devote himself entirely to writing and returned to China. Later on, he referred to the long-



1. Of the Forbes 400 this year, many Chinese tycoons are of Shaoxing origin, so it's common to find luxury cars
2. At the entrance of the Sanwei Shuwu in Shaoxing's Lu Xun Road is a quaint jetty
3. In March, households of Dongpu prepare to preserve vegetables
4. The people of the Shaoxing water town have kept their simple unaffected lifestyles



forgotten Xianheng Tavern in his novel "Kong Yiji". Thus, many a traveller to Shaoxing makes a stop at the Xianheng Tavern after visiting the former residence of Lu Xun, Baicaoyuan (Hundred Herbs Garden) and the Sanwei Shuwu (Three Tastes Studio) to drink Shaoxing wine and eat aniseed-peas.

In fact, the original location of the busy Xianheng Tavern is opposite the new entrance to the Zhou's Residence.

## Tips for Touring Dongpu

**Location:** Dongpu is located in suburb area of Shaoxing.

**Transport:** Take bus No. 118 from the southern bus stop of Shaoxing, get off at Dongpu Station. Fare: 2 yuan. Time: 25 minutes. The town is also home to the former residence of Xu Xilin (Admission: 5 yuan), Dongpu Old Street, if you make it a month and a half before the Chinese New Year, you'll see scenes of the locals brewing Shaoxing yellow wine.

**Accommodation:** Dongpu Hotel Price: 150 yuan/ room (located west of the town, rarely visited by tourists)

**Dining:** Yellow rice wine, and chicken or fish pickled in wine



## ■ Dongpu — Home of Yellow Wine ■

Shaoxing's near neighbour Dongpu is the home of yellow wine, and, with a history going back to the Sui and Tang Dynasties, it has long been a mark of the town. By the Southern Song Dynasty, when private breweries were permitted, the Shaoxing brewing business grew by leaps and bounds. At the time Dongpu had countless breweries and the price of wine was very low.

The ancient town of Dongpu is centred around one river, the banks of which are laid with delicate stone steps and the monotone colour scheme of the houses makes it seem like a giant ink wash painting. Stone bridges sit astride streets, black awning boats shuttle back and forth in the winding river, it is a complex yet harmonious street scene on water. Follow the maze-like waterways and you'll see faded aging panelled doors, quaint shop fronts, deep alleys, and black awning



boats docked at the riverside wharves... every detail is so evocative of Jiangnan's water town living and leaves a subtle yet indelible impression.

In the late Qing Dynasty, Dongpu had 72 breweries of varying sizes and 72 bridges, the most famous being the New Bridge between Lujia and Mofang towers in the west of the town. It's a stone bridge with three arches, seven metres long and two metres wide. From afar it resembles a wine cask floating on water, definitely one of a kind.

## ■ Cruising the Towpaths in a Black-awning Boat ■

By dusk, I made it to the former water town of Keqiao some 40 km west of Shaoxing, and with a little trepidation I walked in the old street. The ancient town seemed to have shrunk, but the ancient bridges remained and old houses on the banks of the waterway looked the same, so this brought me some relief. Walking down to the bridge arch by the stone steps, I noticed only two or three black awning boats berthed here, in contrast to the dozens in previous years. The boatmen wore their black felt hats low and were dozing, curled up in the boats.

In the morning I arrived at the jetty. My ferryman was called Wu

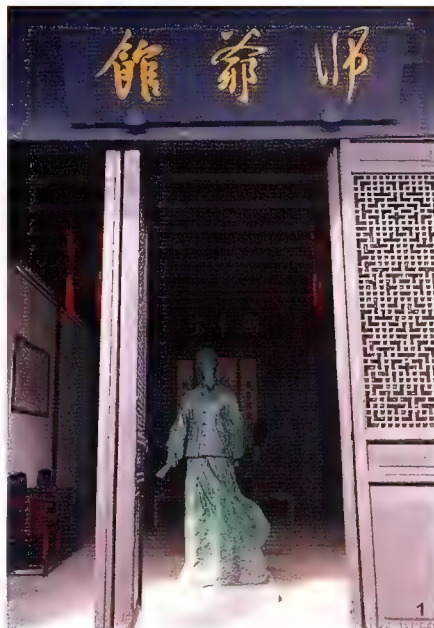


# Shaoxing: Drifting on Black Awning Boat

Haiyan. He stood up from the end of the boat excitedly and with brisk movements, pushed aside the curved awning to reveal two rows of seats that were spotlessly clean. I boarded and sat down, the oars sounded and in one smooth curve, our black awning boat glided to the center of the river. It is an altogether different experience to enjoy the sights from a boat, not only is there more to see, with both banks filled with interesting visions, but the scenery is ever-changing and oh-so-lively. I turned to watch Wu Haiyan row the boat, with his knees bent, his legs moved like the lateral bars on the wheels of a steam train to pull the four-metre long oar, meanwhile both of his hands were pulling a 1.5-metre oar on the other side. This peculiar rowing style is unique to Shaoxing, and these black awning boats have long come to symbolize the water town life. The rivers of Shaoxing are much cleaner than before, Wu says proudly. "Just cleaning the litter along the 25 km of Keqiao's waterways involves a government investment of over 500,000 yuan a year."

As the residences on the two banks moved away, the waterway widened and the sounds of the city dissipated, all we heard were splashing sounds below the boat and the leisurely rhythm of the oars. Following the Zhedong ancient canal up to the Beishuo River, we reached Ruanshe, where the Peace Bridge — donated by Dong Hongdu — sat astride the canal in the late Ming Dynasty. This bridge is over 50 metres long and three to four metres wide. Shaoxing has a large number of arched bridges, all built at the heads of wide rivers or lakes, making it easy for the coming and going of boats, large or small. Shaoxing still has seven arched bridges, of which the aging grey Taiping Bridge is the oldest and best preserved.

The black awning boat slipped under the wide arch of the Taiping Bridge and continued northwards, then from the glittering waters appeared an ancient towpath. With the riverways so calm and smooth, there is no need to tow the boats. But in the age of rowing long arduous journeys, people were forever complaining about the slowness of the boat, especially when rowing against the wind. The more effective solution was to tow the boat with ropes.



The stone towpath seen today was rebuilt in the Hongzhi period of the Ming Dynasty. Every two or three metres there is a stone block made from slabs placed in continuous T-shapes, and between each two blocks are three stone bricks, to form an endless bridge.

## ■ Old Street in Anchang ■

After seeing the ancient towpath, we were on the way to Anchang.

Anchang used to be called Changle (Eternal Joy) Village. The Anchang of the Qing Dynasty had 20 banks and was the most cosmopolitan water town of the Shaoxing region. Today's Anchang Old Street has blossomed like a rejuvenated old tree. Deep in the stone-paved alleys

one can find black doors with the paint peeling, underneath the long awnings are old-time private banks, taverns, teahouses and shops. According to local custom, boats from elsewhere cannot take customers in Anchang, so Wu Haiyan brought his boat close to the small jetty near the Fu'anju Teahouse, saw me ashore and turned back.

The entire length of the old street of Anchang is 1,747 metres, the longest old-style street preserved in the ancient water towns of Shaoxing. Locals are in the habit of calling the two ends of the old street "east city" and "west city", the west city is made up of residences while the east city is mainly commercial, with the city god palace at the eastern end. Outside the palace is an ancient theatre stage, where on the first day of the Chinese New Year, begin performances. There are high-pitched strident Shao operas as well as the wistful melodious Yue operas and the performances continue until the 15th day of the lunar calendar. Locals call it "Sheqi", or commune opera.

## Tips for Touring Keqiao

**Location:** 10 km west of Shaoxing

**Transport:** Take bus No. 5 from the south bus station of Shaoxing, get off at the Keqiao station. Although the historical streets and old bridges have already declined in number compared to before, it is still worth a ride in a black awning boat to see the Taiping bridge and the ancient towpath (boat fare 20-40 yuan). If you hire a boat for a day to Anchang, it will cost about 60-80 yuan. It depends on your haggling skills.

**Accommodation:** New Century Hotel Rate: 180 yuan/ room (common business hotel, convenient transportation)

**Dining:** Deep-fried smelly bean-curd

1. Anchang is where many Shaoxing Shiye were born and bred
2. Anchang used to be the second largest town of Shaoxing and the stores on the old town's ancient streets reflect its history
3. The ancient theatre stage outside Anchang's main entrance to the City God Palace starts every Chinese New Year, with performances of "commune operas"



## Tips for Touring Shaoxing

- **East Lake:** A scenic spot transformed from an ancient quarry  
Admission: 25 yuan Opening hours: 7:00~17:30 Black awning boat:  
(3 seat): 60 yuan  
Transport: Get there by bus No. 10.
- **Keyan:** Also a scenic spot transformed from an ancient quarry, the most fascinating being the Yungu Laughing Buddha and the Seven-Star Rock  
Admission: 60 yuan Opening hours: 7:00~17:30 Black awning boat  
(3 seats): 30 yuan Transport: 16 km to the city's west, get there by  
bus No. 16. Fare: 5 yuan
- **Ancient Towpath:** The special path used by people to tow boat in the past. One of the highlights of Shaoxing's water town scenery is the relatively well-preserved segment from Qianqing's Banqiao bridge to the Xieqiao bridge of Keqiao, it is around 7.5 km long.  
Transport: Hire a black awning boat from Keqiao to cruise the ancient towpath. Fare: 30 yuan.
- **Bazi Bridge:** Built in Southern Song Dynasty, it is a unique bridge which crosses three rivers and connects three streets  
Transport: Take bus No. 9 from the railway station to the bridge.
- **Dayu Tombs:** consists of the Dayu Temple and the gallery of tombstone engravings. In the middle of the King Yu Palace is a 5.85-metre-high sculpture of Dayu.  
Transport: The Dayu tombs are located in the Yuling village 5 km to the south of Shaoxing, get there by bus No. 2 and 4. Admission: 25 yuan.
- **Lu Xun's Former Residence:** In 1881 Lu Xun was born here and spent his childhood and adolescence here. The residence tour is usually together with a tour of Baicao Yuan Garden and Sanwei Shuwu as well as the Lu Xun Memorial Museum.  
Transport: Take bus No. 2 from the railway station and get off at the Lu Xun street intersection, walk eastwards for 500 metres. All-inclusive ticket: 30 yuan

Anchang old street has a memorial hall for Shaoxing's "shiye" (private legal advisers in the past) in the former residence of Lou Xintian, one of the late Qing Dynasty shiye, with black doors facing the river, there are four layers of entrances. Enter them and you'll find high ceilings, patterned windows, engraved king size beds, the elements of a typical private residence of the Jiangnan water towns.

Shiye were in the business of devising strategies for their employers, including the handling of confidential matters, drafting of documents and case investigations. To use today's terminology, a shiye is a "senior government advisor" or a "member of a think tank".

*Translated by Cheng Lei, Gloria Shang*



## Tips for Touring Anchang

- Location:** 18 km northwest of Shaoxing
- Transport:** Take bus No. 118 from Shaoxing South Bus Station and get off at Anchang Station. Fare: 4 yuan. Time: About 50 minutes. Anchang can also be reached by driving a car from the Shanghai-Hangzhou-Ningbo Expressway.
- Admissions:** All-inclusive Ticket: (20 yuan) for (Shaoxing Shiye Residence, Anchang Folk Customs Museum, Huikang old-style banking house, Anchang Culture & History Museum). Cruise of black awning boat: 10 yuan.
- Accommodation:** Anchang Hostel: 20~30 yuan/bed (conveniently located close to the city river)
- Dining:** There are lots of eateries on both sides of the river in Anchang. Special dishes: smoked sausage, dried fish, preserved vegetables





# Top 3 Water Towns in Jiangnan



## Zhouzhuang

Among numerous small towns in Jiangnan, Zhouzhuang is the best embodiment of water town living. It is 60 km away to the east of Shanghai, 38 km to the north of Suzhou, the town is cradled by rivers on all sides as if a floating lotus leaf. Four criss-crossing river courses divides the ancient town into eight streets, while houses facing the water are elegant with white paint and dark windows frames. The streets of the ancient town connected by the bridges, there are 14 stone bridges from the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, of which the Shuangqiao (Twin Bridge), Fu'an Bridge, Zhenfeng Bridge, Fuhong Bridge are the most representative. Zhouzhuang's residences have kept their old styles, the best examples are Chenting, Zhangting, Zeting, and Zhangting. Shenting is the former mansion of Shen Wansan, one of Jiangnan's wealthiest tycoons in history. Zhangting is a mansion from the Ming Dynasty, with long narrow and poorly lit alleyways. A river flows through the house and there is a square pool built in the middle section to allow boats to turn round. Its rear hall has open windows and balconies facing the water. To this day the folk custom of drinking A-Po (Grandmother) tea is still retained.

- **All-inclusive tickets:** 60 yuan
- **Best way to tour:** Zhouzhuang is overcrowded with tourists during the day in weekends and holidays, it is better to arrive after four in the afternoon and stay overnight. Tour the town by boat on the morning of the second day and leave before nine.
- **Transport:** Tourist buses depart from Shanghai Bowanren Stadium everyday at 7:00, 9:00, 12:00, 14:00, the journey is for 1.5 hours and costs 15 yuan. At the Suzhou North Bus Station, tourist buses leave for Zhouzhuang every hour, the ride is for 1 hour and the fare is 10 yuan.

● **Accommodation:** Zhengguotang Hotel Rate: 240 yuan/room Tel: (512) 5721 2009

● **Dining:** Shenting Restaurant — Wansan Family Banquet (Main dishes: Wansan pig's trotters, Sanwei dumplings, steamed mandarin fish, braised eel, thick soup of water shield and perch, river snail cooked in ginger sauce, oil meat bun, meat wrapped in bean curd slice, stewed dried bean curd, roasted lotus root)



## Tongli

Tongli is larger than Zhouzhuang, but isn't as charming as Zhouzhuang. Located on the east side of the Grand Canal, it is 20 km from Suzhou. Its canals are all laid with granite, while the stones used for the wharves are

neat and square, every household is facing the river and every family is accessible by boat. In the town one can find many fine examples of Ming- or Qing-Dynasty's architecture, and many bridges from the dynasties of Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing. The Taiping, Jili, and Changqing bridges from the Qing Dynasty are the best among them. When there are wedding bells for the people of Tongli, the carriages must go through these three bridges, similarly when there are birthdays, making it across the three bridges is a sign of auspiciousness. Tongli is home to celebrities and public figures, so the town is dotted with their legacies. The best known site is Tuisi Garden built in 1885.

- **All-inclusive tickets:** 50 yuan
- **Transport:** Tourist buses leave from Shanghai gym daily. On weekends there are tourist buses leaving Hangzhou's Wushan Square for Tongli. Small buses go to Tongli every 15 minutes from the Suzhou Wuxian bus station; while at Suzhou train station there are small buses bound for Tongli every 20 minutes.
- **Accommodation:** There are 13 residential hostels in Tongli. Some of them can be found in small lanes, or at the river bank. Rate: 30-40 yuan/bed.

## Luzhi

It is about 25 km away from Suzhou, the town that floats on clear waters, its old district is segmented into two streets by one river, the street is right next to the river and the waterside markets thrive. Local women in local dress look charming, with their floral cotton shirts, embroidered shoes, accessorized with aprons, waistbands and headscarves. The town is also famous for its Baosheng Temple that was first built in 503, the temple of Heavenly Emperor is particularly magnificent and representative of Jiangnan's water town architecture, while more seldom seen in Jiangnan are the nine Arhat statues in the temple, these masterpieces of ancient sculpture, even after enduring the ravages of time, remain poignant and awe-inspiring. Other main sights include: Ye Shengtao Memorial Hall, Baosheng Temple, Wansheng Rice Merchant, Water Town Clothing Museum, Wang Tao Memorial Hall, Xiao Fangfang Performance Hall, and Shuixiang Agricultural Tools Museum.



- **All-inclusive tickets:** 45 yuan
- **River cruise (6 seat):** 48 yuan/hour
- **Transport:** Shanghai is 60 km from Luzhi. There are daily buses from bus station at No. 806 of Shanghai Zhongshan Road North to Luzhi.
- **Fare:** 14.5 yuan. There are also buses to Luzhi from Suzhou's Fengmen, Wuzhong District South Bus Station, Suzhou Railway Station, and Suzhou Bus Station.



# Little-known Water Towns

## Jinxi

One of the new tourism finds, Jinxi is a water town eight kilometres from Zhouzhuang. It has many folk museums, including the ancient bricks and tiles museum, purple pottery museum, antique museum, coins museum, gold and stone engravings museum, art gallery, root sculpture and stones museum, it is best known for its ancient bricks and tiles museum.

There are 36 ancient bridges that span four dynasties (Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing) and have distinct styles of their own.

✦ **All-inclusive tickets:** 30 yuan Cruise (8 seat, 60 yuan/ 0.5 hour

✦ **Transport:** Jinxi is 70 km from Shanghai. Tourists can take the hourly bus from the long distance bus station at No. 80, Taixing Road of Shanghai's Zhabei District. Fare: 15 yuan Jinxi is 37 km away from Suzhou. Suzhou North Long-distance bus station has half-hourly buses to Jinxi. Fares: 12 yuan

✦ **Accommodation:** There are no residential hostels in Jinxi. The Jinxi Hotel is somewhat distant from the town. Rate: 120 yuan/ room



## Guangfu

Located at the Taihu Lake's edge, Guangfu is 28 km away from Suzhou. Apart from main sights of Guangfu Temple, Situ Temple, Sheng'en Temple and Xiangxuehai (Fragrant Snow Sea) Garden, the most worth visiting is Huzhongcun (the village within the lake). March and April are Taihu fishermen's off-season, hundreds of sailboats in the harbour compose a unique picture of fishing village grandeur. When April ends and May begins, the fishing boats all leave at once, the hundreds of sails blowing in the wind is another sight to behold.

✦ **Scenic spots:** To cruise the Taihu Lake on a fisherman's boat costs 600 yuan, each boat seats a maximum of 20 and the cruise is up to five hours long.

✦ **Transport:** Take the No. 4, 20 or 38 buses from Suzhou Railway Station, transfer at Mudu to Guangfu. Time: 1 hour

✦ **Accommodation:** Shanghai Baoguan

Rate: 120 yuan/ room (quite far from the town)

✦ **Dining:** The environment of fishermen's cuisine of Taihu Lake is like that of Lei Yue Mun in Hong Kong. The differences are the former one serves river seafood, and is much cheaper (300 yuan/ 10 people). Famous dishes include white fish, white prawn, and silver fish.

## Words from the Author

Among the six towns of Zhouzhuang, Longli, Luzhi, Wuzhen, Xitang and Nanxun, which has been jointly applied for the World Cultural Heritage sites, Nanxun was the last to have developed tourism, leaving it less commercialized. While visiting the Afa Bamboo Ware Shop in Nanxun, I met its 55-year-old owner Huang Baokun. He told me that at the age of 15, he began to make bamboo ware such as baskets, fishing tools, steamers and rice washers. Thanks to the development of tourism in Nanxun that has brought new life to the ancient town by revitalizing many traditional handicrafts such as bamboo weaving, blacksmith, coopering, and so on. A "Handicrafts Street" has taken shape. Huang receives visitors in his shop to display his skills and sell his products. Though there are always more on-lookers than buyers, he can still make a living because he does not need to pay rent for the shop and receives 300 yuan every month as subsidy from the tourism company.



It is so nice that the traditional handicrafts, which were endangered in the progress of modernization, have gained new vigour along with the development of tourism and been preserved as a cultural heritage.



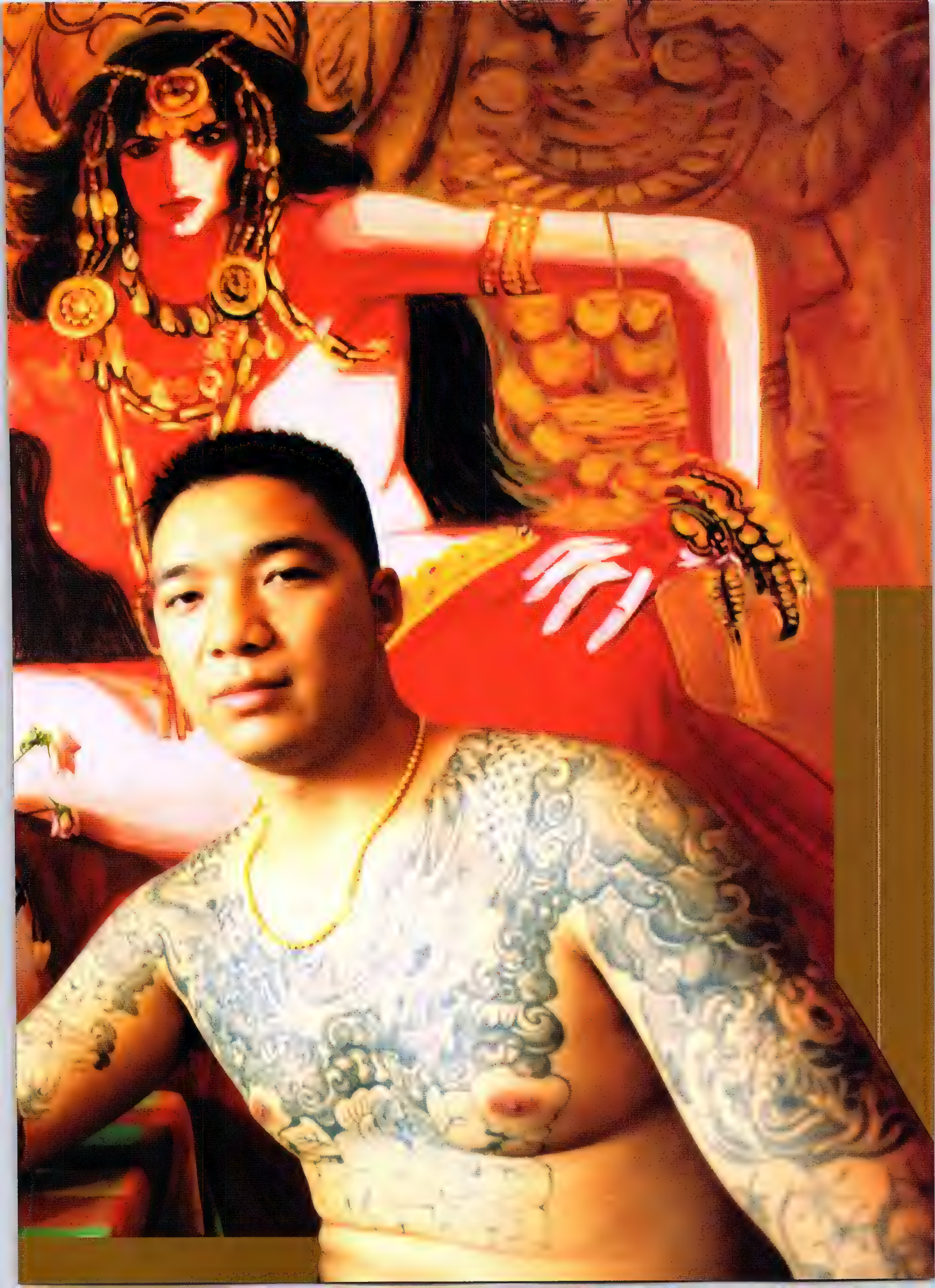


# Colourful Kunming

Photos by Li Zhixiong Article by Big Tomato









*Yunnan is one of the great scenic provinces of China, and areas such as Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-La, and Xishuangbanna are always crowded with tourists. But the provincial capital, Kunming, is a pleasant surprise. Hasty tourists pass through this city as a stopover, without noticing its charm, but every corner is penetrated with bold, unrestrained art, and the locals display a subdued, but winning hospitality.*



**K**unming people have their markets for flowers and birds in the daytime, and a Kundu Plaza evening at night. The "Indian Tattoos", a world standard tattoo business, is an illustrious example.

The tattooist, named Dahai, has the air of a master. A man in his 30s

with heavy whiskers, he went to Europe in 1996 to learn his tattoo skills, studying under the personal instruction of a reputable master in Paris. He undertook an apprenticeship of four years and then returned to Yunnan, starting his own business in Kundu. Since his apprenticeship, he has completed more than 5,000 works of various sizes.



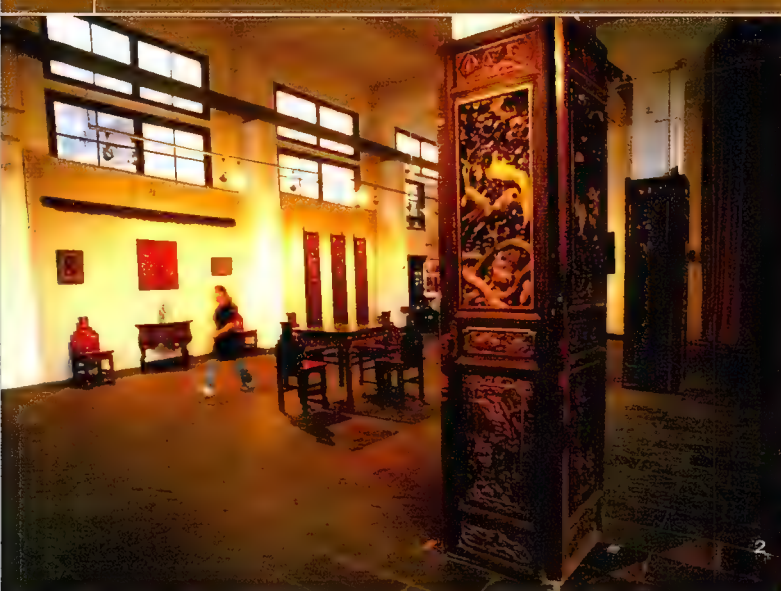
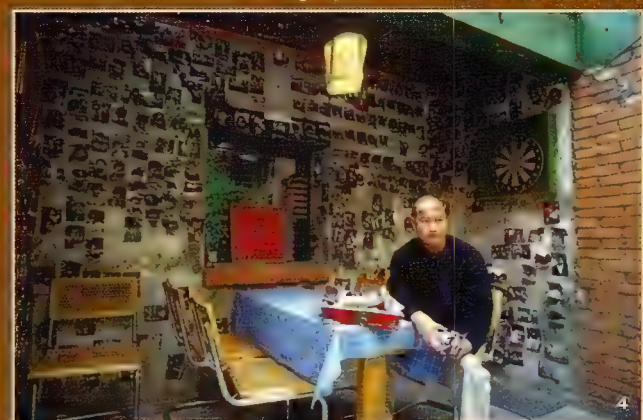
### *Reflecting the Inner Self on the Skin*

Dahai's customers are not as distinguished, but they are respectable citizens. Their ages range from 18 to 60, and most are local Kunming people, including a good proportion of women. All have relatively well-paid, steady occupations. Anyone under 18 is refused because they are still under-developed physically and psychologically and they possibly don't understand their own exact requirements or the true spirit of tattoos, failing to comprehend a tattoo's permanence.



In a certain sense tattoos represent a confidence in the tattooist's skill and reputation.

No matter their motives when they ask for a tattoo, the customer does not undertake the tattoo lightly or because it's fashionable. They



Previous spread photo: The "Indian Tattoos" is an internationally standard tattoo workshop in Kunming

1. Dahai, the owner of "Indian Tattoos", has his own principles in tattooing for people
2. "Chuangku" (Creation House), in which more than 30 noted artists boasting different styles stay here, opening workshops, galleries, restaurants, and international art exhibitions
3. Most guests of "Indian Tattoos" are local Kunming people, where women compile over 60%
4. As a professor of the Sichuan Arts Institute, Ye Yongqing is one of the founders of "Chuangku". His Red Banana gallery-cum-tavern in the wasted ground behind the workshop has become a common place for artists and visitors to discuss art
5. The Red Banana Tavern in "Chuangku"
6. The Siberian red-beak seagull in Cuihu Lake in Kunming





Colourful Kunming



are all very mature, maybe they admire certain characters or natural objects, or possibly they want to cherish a memory. Superstitious people want to protect themselves from evil or misfortune, while some women expect to become more sexually desirable.

Dahai imported his equipment and inks from Britain, France, Germany and other countries. He was the first to propose a pre-contract system for tattoos and a set of international standards for equipment disinfection in China. "I expect society sees tattoos as a kind of subculture, rather than a series of fickle fads. I hope I can develop international tattoo skills, the artistic ideas and the professional ethics which my teacher taught me, developing European tattoo art to a certain degree in China," he says.

in trance, appearing and disappearing mysteriously, and being otherworldly...but in the very famous "Chuangku", things are quite different: the art comes from ordinary daily practices, and the artists are just among us, possibly you have just come across one of them in the food market just a moment ago bargaining with a vender, embarrassed and politely. More pleasantly, they as a matter of fact don't hope only God could read their artworks, and they are very happy to talk with others about things outside their works when they are not occupied.

Check it out. The best time is in the evening, order a glass of red wine and wander about, indulge yourself in the world of art.



### *The Warehouse that Became an Art Studio*

"Chuangku" (Creation House) is an art base and a cultural oasis in Kunming. It sounds just like "cangku" (warehouse) in Mandarin. Actually it had been a bankrupt factory before it was rebuilt into the guildhall. The construction was originally built in the 1970s; and the brick walls and sloped roofs looked dirty and aged back then. They were dilapidated, and creepers flourished all over the outside. The workers had left dejectedly, but the artists came in high spirits. "Chuangku" has become one of Kunming's landmarks, and more than 30 leading artists have settled here. Ateliers of various styles are integrated with galleries, tearooms and restaurants, and both domestic and international artistic shows are frequently held.

In the eyes of us the everymen and everywomen, artists are just some guys of unknown derivations, whose hair disheveled and sights







### *Railway Food Never Tasted So Good*

I reached the "1910 Huoche Nanzhan" (Southern Railway Station) on No. 8 Houxin Street at 7:00 p.m. Through the entrance, I came face to face with railway history in an old, two-storey, Western style house. The restaurant was busy when I arrived. A waitress in a blue uniform led me to the end of the track in the yard. A signal lamp stood on my right. Sitting down, I found it was the perfect place to watch others without being disturbed.

Railway memorabilia was everywhere. Beside the track were many tables, and among them were shuttling waitresses — just as crowded as a railway station. A toddler was trying to walk on the track, falling down only after a few steps. I felt like a passenger expecting a train in a railway station.

The simple names of the dishes suggest your fare. For instance, the Pumpkin and Ham of Panxi, the Sausage of Xujiadu, and so on, all of them railway stations of Yunnan with a local specialty. Moreover, the charm of food in Yunnan is its strangeness. It is an adventure not knowing what you have ordered. But don't forget to look at the prices.

As I was waiting for the dishes, a waitress

told me the owner of this restaurant, Nie Rongging if by name, had been living nearby the Nanyao Railway Station ever since his childhood. His parents were also railway workers. He had a special feeling to the railway, but seldom came to the restaurant. The name of the restaurant originated from such a story: in 1910, the French employed Chinese workers to build up the first railroad in Yunnan, the Yunnan-Vietnam Railway, accessible to the abroad instead of at home. She also told me that there were many old photos both downstairs and upstairs, most of which were about railways, and I could casually look around as I liked.

I remembered a friend of mine once had remarked that a railway was just a society, very independent. The railway people had survived on the railways for several generations, living their daily lives, and most probably their children would live such lives too. Over the 50 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, several sectors of the country had changed their uniforms, but only the railway sector remained its traditional suits in blue. And at the end, noticing I had a confused expression, that friend told me that the railway people had a special passion to the railway, which an outsider could not





understand at all.



### *A History of Bar and Cafe Culture*

Wenlin Street is a lane of culture. At only 294 metres long, this lane is full of small buildings, unrecognisable as public houses, cafes or restaurants. Because of its proximity to Yunnan University, the leading college of Yunnan Province, and its location at Cuihu Lake, the guests are ordinary people, but foreigners are frequently seen here.

Aladdin, PesaPizza, Jiumu Korean restaurant, Yican Tavern which often shows foreign movies for free, and the booklovers' Prague are some of the close-packed restaurants and bars, making it almost impossible to make a decision. They nestle together, but stand separately. I wandered out of one into the next, finding each place completely distinctive.

Some are worth a special mention. Aladdin is not as attractive as the others in appearance. I visited this bar because of the aroma emanating from it. Patrons behave very casually in these bars, as the hosts or hostesses don't care if they just step to ask questions and then leave. I treated myself to genuine Arabic salty coffee. What was more, it cost just 10 yuan for one cup.

Originally, Yican was the name of a well in Lijiang. But in Kunming, it becomes a cafe that shows films.

"I Am Living" is another bar. The name attracted me first, and then the establishment itself became one of my favourites. The sofa was made of bricks, but I could sit in the snug corner all night. The host was a short amiable young man with long hair. He spoke fluent English and made his customers right at home.



### *Kunming's Earliest Taverns*

Cultural Lane has a long history. It is extremely narrow, and a motorist has to drive well if he wants to traverse it. Visitors can see rows of houses with clay walls. This is the birthplace of the taverns of Kunming.

"Laofuzi" (Old Confucian Scholar) is a strange bar. Black and deep blue are its basic colours, and the tables are very low. The foreigners sitting outside have peculiar expressions on their faces. This bar appears somewhat oppressive but it is curious, attracting people to step in and take a look.

Land of Canaan, next to "Laofuzi", is a two-storey building, and its rooms on the first floor reminded me of my family's attic, very amiable, and it is the only business which has two bars in this small lane.

Coffee and tea are available at the Hump Tavern, too.

The pattern of this bar retains the original structure of the architecture, a small two-storey house of clay walls and small high windows, with glorious portraits of Chairman Mao.

It took me eight minutes to look around the entire tavern. On the walls were pictures of ancient Chinese female officials, portraits of

Chairman Mao, the skull of a Tibetan yak, some Tibetan-style patterns, some large pieces of cloth in deep blue, as well as the small bar counter on which were piles of objects. I could think of only two words to describe it: small and disordered. But both the smallness and disorder were comfortable.

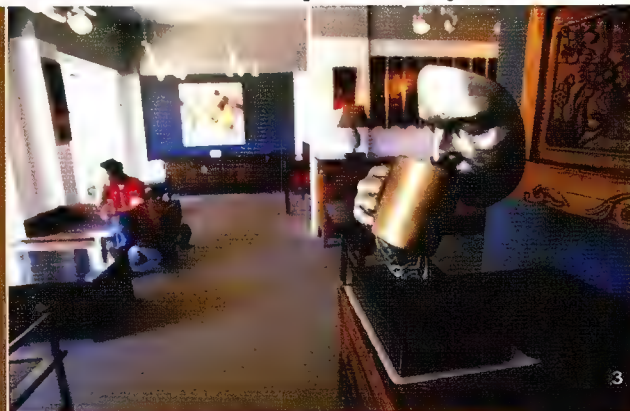


### *Livelier than Beijing's Sanlitun*

Cuihu Lake is in the urban area. When one friend told me Cuihu Lake once had been a part of Dianchi Lake, I was surprised. Since then I always wonder at the great changes it has seen.

Cuihu Lake is actually the lungs of Kunming, for it has green trees and waters. Red-beak gulls fly here from Siberia every year. Up to 80 bars and teashops are scattered around Cuihu Lake, a gathering rarely seen in one place in other cities. Those in Sanlitun, the famous Bar Street in Beijing, are not more than 20 or 30.

The Golden Sun Western Restaurant does relatively brisk business, possibly because of its moderate prices, pleasant cuisine and ambience. At 38 yuan for a plate of peppery beef and 35 yuan for a slice of fruit pie, the quantities are great. You may eat up and sit for a while at the table outside, waiting for the evening to close in.



1. The Aladdin tavern provides authentic Arabic salty coffee, and cigarette made with fruit jam which will not get one addicted
2. The setting of the two-storey, earthen built Hump Tavern basically models the old architecture of Kunming
3. The exotic interior design of a furniture store, where guests can drink coffee inside
4. Inside the "1910 Southern Railway Station" Restaurant





Anisette Cabaret is a kind of exquisite wildness. I visited this cabaret because it was distinctively noisy. Waiters carried plates, and detoured around the tables, swinging trays. I felt as if I was in a steeplechase. All of a sudden, a violinist began to play wildly. I ordered a liqueur. Actually, I had no other choice, because no other drink was served here. Forty yuan for one glass was fairly expensive. But just for the violinist, it was worth the price.

Mud Bar is small, with half of the space used to make pottery. A handsome young man was teaching guests the art. The prices were reasonable — 10 yuan for one hour's practice, eight yuan for helping a guest bake a creation, and for three yuan more, the guest could take home his pot. Melodious music made it calm and peaceful.

### Antiques in Kunming

The antiques in Kunming are not so abundant as those of Central China, where the prosperity of bygone days has left so many precious objects. But Kunming has many relics and monuments too. Thanks to its remoteness and the people's limited knowledge of antiques, Kunming has retained many old curiosities. With some insight, it is possible to pick up overlooked artifacts.

The antique trade in Kunming is concentrated in three places: the Jingxing Flower and Bird Market, Dongfeng Antique Emporium and Southwest Cultural Plaza.

Jingxing Flower and Bird Market is in the central urban area. The oldest of the three, it has long been a place of leisure and shopping. Flowers, birds, artifacts and pets such as miniature pigs and dogs can be found. But the orchids, Burmese emeralds and antiques are the most popular.

Just take antiques as an example. Nearly a hundred antique shops are located here; the number is fairly considerable compared with the Liulichang Street, the most famous antique market in Beijing. Tourist buses are usually parked in the yard of the Shengli Hall. Getting off a

bus, visitors could get out of both its western and eastern entrances. Antique shops are available both in the Yunrui Road East and Yunrui Road West, whereas the front entrance leads to the Flower and Bird Market across the narrow Guanghua Street. At the very entrance to the Flower and Bird Market is the Yunrui Park, which faces the Guanghua Street. Pets and flowers have immersed the bounding wall of the small garden, as well as the shops of jewelries and antiques.

Tree-lined Yongdao Street leads directly to a traditional style four-storey building, the centre of the flower and bird market. This is the main hub for the collection, distribution and export of Burmese emeralds. The ground floor features flowers, birds, fish and other small pets; on the second floor are Chinese folk craftwork products, such as woodcarvings, marbles, clothing and embroideries; the third floor is used for exhibitions, where small art displays or auctions are frequently held; and the fourth floor has shops with jewelry and antiques. It takes more than half a day for a leisurely visit. The jewelry and curiosities are abundant, both replicas and genuine. The shops dazzle under their lamplights. Unwitting customers can find their "genuine" antiques are replicas

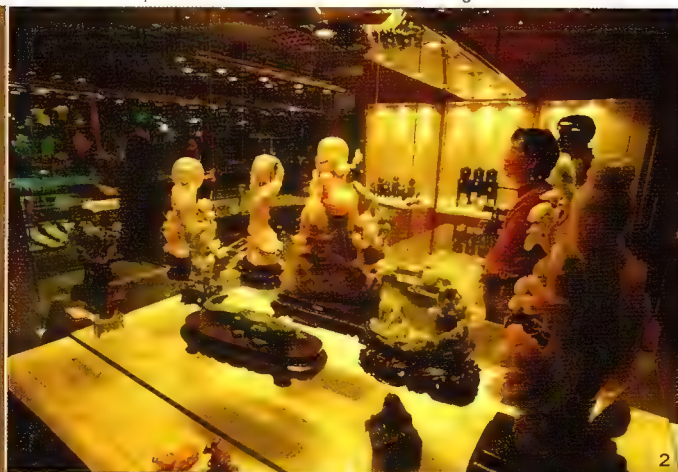
when they see them in the clear light of day.

### Kunming Pastimes

Kunming people seem indifferent to antiques, while preferring flowers, birds, fish and other small pets. So few locals run the antique shops. Black ceramics, black copper and silver ware, and embroideries are the most outstanding of the ancient craftworks in Yunnan. Calligraphy

and paintings, porcelain and jade are also available. The more expensive items are not usually on display and the discerning customer must ask to see "something better" to peruse to them. And it doesn't matter whether you buy or not.

The Antique Emporium is a two-stop journey from the Flower and Bird Market. It occupies the heart of the city, just west of the Tianheng Hotel in Dongfeng Square. It is a Chinese-style compound with houses around its yards, a three-storey wooden structure. A curiosity in itself, it deals only in antiques. Its 60-square-metre yard is full of stalls. Everyday antique dealers linger, some from local prefectures often bring their items and put up temporary stands, selling all kinds of ancient objects they have collected from the countryside. Shopkeepers stoop behind counters, cleaning their favourite items instead of greeting their would-be customers. But pay no attention to





them, and browse to your heart's content.

The life of a common citizen has little to do with the Antique Emporium. Everyone knows there is an Antique Emporium in the square, but few of them visit it, except those fond of antiques. So a new face like you and me appearing in the yard will be naturally regarded as a curiosity. The frequent visitors will observe you as much as they like, from the top to the foot, and then from the foot to the top.

The Southwestern Cultural Plaza is at the junction of the Renmin Road Central and the Qingnian Road, and is named after the nearby shopping centre, Southwestern Commercial Building. It sells various tasty local foods and small ornaments. It is also a paradise of collectors. Everything you expect to find is available here, ranging from old journals, old books, picture books, ancient coins, old photographs, and so on. There are no flowers, birds, fish or other pets, but it is more popular than the Antique Emporium. School children, often three or five in a group, sit around terrines to eat thin rice-flour noodles mixed with beef. Then they begin to bargain with the shopkeepers who sell bracelets. The Kunming people talk and laugh loudly, popping in and out of the various antique shops.



### *Hui Delicacies on Shuncheng Street*

Shuncheng Street is of a style rarely seen in the centre of a downtown area. The rows of houses are as old as it is. Among them are some typical Yunnan structures known as "Yikeyin" (One Seal), which comprise major rooms and wing-rooms, both with clay walls and sloped roofs. They appear square both in layout and outer appearance, just like an ancient Chinese seal. The houses are built symmetrically, in a square and even manner, giving an impression of placidity and simplicity. Several ethnic groups reside in these houses, including Han, Yi and Hui people and some Mongolians. The One Seal residences are mostly located in the central area of Yunnan.

It can take just five minutes to walk through the old street. It is said to have been very prosperous throughout its history. It is the

1. The Zhonggaifang Walking Commerical Zone near the Kunming Department Store
2. Kunming has retained many aged curiosities
3. Listen to old music and chat with a lady dressed in traditional clothing







residential and business site of the Hui people, an ethnic group scattered across China. Halfway along the street is a mosque, built not in the Arabic or central Asian styles, but in Chinese traditional style with a palace-like compound and houses around the yard.

Once the Hui people were the main residents of this street, but now many others have joined them, people from Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang. Their primary businesses are Moslem beverages and food, ranging from snack booths in the street to the closely huddled restaurants. From early morning to late night, people throng the street, buying kebabs, taros or other treats. Everywhere on both sides hangs beef made in the special Yunnan way. You may eat it in the street, or take some home for later.

Once the food in Shuncheng Street was renowned for its cheapness, but now restaurants have boomed, and the services have greatly improved. Restaurants are always introducing new dishes. The Yingjianglou Restaurant near the junction with Zhongtaifang is an old Moslem restaurant of Yunnan

cuisine, very famous in Kunming. Its "guoqiao mixian" (thin and long rice-flour noodles) and soup are widely appreciated. What is more, it is open 24 hours. Yilanbao is another Moslem restaurant, whose "Xiaodaoya" duck has been very popular over the years. The duck served in this restaurant is small, but in contrast to large ducks, is less greasy and more flavoursome, enough for one duck per person. With its quick service and reasonable prices, this restaurant is a favourite place for entertaining friends or holding family gatherings. The Welfare Restaurant is a good example of collective snack booths. Originally



two small snack counters, it has developed into a storefront of about five rooms. Its chicken and other fried foods taste very good. Moreover, there are new restaurants such as the Yiliyuan Garden and the Yilongyuan Garden, which deserve a visit too.

Shops of non-staple foodstuffs and other commodities are also characteristic, mostly





Moslem. The shelves are full of "qiegao" (stick cake made of rice), "huibin" (a kind of Moslemic cake), and some others. Fried wheaten food is a favourite of the Hui people, so the booths serve these kinds of food are very busy, and those serving cooked food seem busier, however. Because of dietetic taboos, visitors may notice some butchers opened by imams. Moslem bazaars are full of wonderful things in variety.

Translated by Huang Deyuan

1. Bronze statues on Dongsu Street have brought back the living of Kunming people in the past
2. The Jingxing Flower and Bird Market
3. Lots of Hui people open street food stands or restaurants at Shuncheng Street



## Travel Tips to Kunming

### ◎ Transport in Kunming

**Public vehicles:** Passengers should prepare coins before boarding the buses since most buses use ticket-machines. Fare of buses is usually 1 yuan, those with air-conditioning or private run buses going to special routes cost 2 yuan. The earliest bus usually leaves at 6:30 and last one at 22:00.

**Taxi:** The fare is usually collected according to the distant-counting machine. For the three kinds of taxi, including Santana, Jeda, and Hongqi, the starting price for the first 3 km is 8 yuan. An amount of 1.8 yuan is added in every increased kilometre afterwards. (starting fare is 9.6 yuan and 2.7 yuan for every additional kilometre after 22:00). For small-sized taxi like Xiali, the fare for the first 3 km is 7 yuan, and 1.6 yuan for every kilometre afterwards (starting fare is 9.6 yuan and 2.4 yuan for an additional kilometre after 22:00).

### ◎ Accommodation

#### **Haiyu Hotel ★★★★★**

Add: 20 Honghua Bridge Tel: (871) 5386688

Twin-bed room: 1,400 yuan

Remarks: Invested by Hong Kong merchants, conveniently located, close to Cuihu Lake

#### **Sakura Holiday Inn ★★★★★**

Add: 25 Dongfeng Road East Tel: (871) 3165888

Twin-bed room: 1,100 yuan

Remarks: The first four-star hotel in Kunming, close to airport, railway stations and major scenic areas. The western restaurant is famous in providing authentic dishes

#### **Chahua (Camellia) Hotel★★**

Add: 154 Dongfeng Road East Tel: (871) 3163000

Twin-bed room: 140 yuan (there are booth as cheap as 30 yuan)

Remarks: Just a few steps from Sakura Holiday Inn. There are bicycles and facilities to assist DIY travellers, therefore attracting lots of foreign backpackers

### ◎ Hot Spots in Downtown

#### **Kundu Commerical Plaza**

Location: Xinwen Road (close to Dongfeng Road West)

#### **Shanghe Huiguan**

Location: 7 Houxin Street Tel: (871) 3106615

#### **Chuangku (Creation House)**

Location: 101 Xiba Road

#### **1910 South Railway Station Restaurant**

Location: 7 Houxin Street Tel: (871) 3169486

#### **Wenlin Street (Bar Street)**

Location: Near Yunnan University built beside Cuihu Lake

#### **Wenhuaxiang (Cultural Lane)**

Location: Wenlin Street

#### **Cuihu Lake**

Location: Between the Cuihu Road East, West, South, and North

#### **Jingxing Flower and Bird Market**

Location: Within Guanghua, Jingxing, and Yongdao streets

#### **Dongfeng Plaze Antique City**

Location: West of Tianheng Hotel of Dongfeng Plaza

#### **Southwest Cultural City**

Location: West of Southwest Commercial Mansion between Qingnian Road and People's Road Central

#### **Shuncheng Street (Muslim food stands and restaurants)**

Location: Behind Wuhua Mansion, near Wuyi Road



# HAUNTING COFFINS IN SEARCH OF THE

Photos by Li Xueliang Article by Wang Binghua

A mysterious civilization from 4,000 years ago has almost been lost in desert sands. With an expedition team into the Lop Nur desert, our reporter found the Sun-Shaped Graveyard surrounded by poplar stakes, and a thousand-year-old blond corpse ...

According to legend, there are 1,000 coffins watched by devils in the graveyard.

\* Xiaohu Tombs, covering 2,500 square metres, have remained hidden in the Lop Nur desert from 1934 until the late 1990s when Chinese scientists with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) translated Folke Bergman's book *Archaeological Researches in Sinkiang*.

1. The ancient graves in the lower reaches of the Konqi River valley, now referred to as the Sun-Shaped Graveyard
2. Rows of stakes and piles of bones indicate a mysterious period of civilization dating back 4,000 years



# XIAOHE TOMBS IN LOP NUR









Until the mid-Fourth Century, Loulan (or Kroraina) in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region had been of similar importance as Shanghai and Shenzhen today. It was China's economic centre on an important route to the outside world. In an area of some 500 km in the Gobi Desert between Dunhuang (in Gansu) and Lop Nur (in Xinjiang), beacon towers, post houses and post kiosks were built where there was water to maintain this major channel of communications. Envoys and caravans used to travel westwards along the Konqi River from Loulan (an ancient empire in Xinjiang) to enter the centre of Luntai and Quli at the southern foot of the Tianshan Mountains. Then they would traverse along the Tarim River valley to the west, pass Qiuci (the present-day oasis of Kuqa), Shule (the oasis of Kashi), across the Tianshan Mountains and the Pamir Valley, to reach Dawan (present-day Fergana Basin), Kangju (Samarkand), Daxia (Afghanistan), Anxi (Iran), the Mediterranean and Rome.

This is the northern route of the Silk Road — the major channel of transportation from the Han empires in China to the West. But the route from Loulan westwards to Luntai is now unclear, and there have been no historical records of the people and civilizations along the road.

### Graveyard in the Desert

In 1901, Ordok, a hunter of Lop Nur, led

the Swedish archeologist Sven Hedin (1865 — 1952) into the old city of Loulan and was richly awarded for the trip. After bidding goodbye to Sven Hedin he began his own search in the Loulan Desert. Around 1910 he found the Xiaohe Tombs. In March 1934 when he met Sven Hedin again by the Konqi River, he told Sven that there were up to a thousand coffins on a hill — a place haunted by Iblis ("ghost" in the Uygur language). Later, Sven Hedin asked his colleague Folke Bergman to explore the site.

On June 2, 1934, after repeated setbacks, Ordok finally guided Bergman to the Xiaohe Tombs. The Xiaohe is a branch river on the lower reaches of the Konqi River. Short as it is, the river has no name of its own. When Bergman came to explore the site, he had nothing for a landmark so he named it "Xiaohe" (Small River). The graveyard is one of the important remains of the early civilization in the Lop Nur desert. Without any written record, we can only study the traces of history in the ancient Xiaohe Tombs and on the beacon tower nearby, under the sand dunes in the wasteland, along the old riverbed, and between the dry stakes full of cracks-traces that have raised even more questions.

In 1939 Bergman published *Archaeological Researches in Sinkiang* (Xinjiang) in Stockholm. In this book he publicized his archaeological explorations of the Xiaohe

Tombs and listed many unusual and mysterious things that deserved further study: strange stakes, blood-red snake patterns, dried corpses of Caucasians, and life-size wooden statues of male and female figures with prominent genital organs...

Regrettably the Xiaohe Tombs was not visited by anyone after Bergman left. Besides the relics Bergman took with him to Stockholm, Ordok also excavated precious relics and sold them to a Japanese monk. They passed through many hands and are now in the Central Museum of Seoul, South Korea. Archeological researchers of the western regions are left with endless questions that have become more intriguing with the passage of time.

### Found and Lost Again

Many of the ancient sites where Western scholars visited before the 1930s were only reached by the Chinese in the late 20th Century, including the Xiaohe Tombs.

Taking the opportunity that NHK and CCTV were cooperating on a TV series *The Silk Road* in 1979, I led an archeological team to the lower reaches of the Konqi River in search of the Xiaohe Tombs. The series had to mention Loulan and the Princess of Loulan who aroused curiosity throughout the world — and the beautiful and amazing mummy of her that Bergman saw in the Xiaohe Tombs.

We walked along a dry estuary for quite a







distance along the Konqi River. Though the Xiaohe Tombs was nowhere to be found, we did see an ancient grave in the Konqi River valley — referred to as the Sun-Shaped Graveyard. In this gorge we dug for a month and excavated a complete graveyard dating back 4,000 years. Among some 40 graves there, those of relatively later ages were surrounded in seven circles by “huyang”, or diversiform-leaved poplar (*Populus diversifolia*) stakes with the body in the centre. The graves of earlier years, like those in the Xiaohe Tombs, have arc coffins made for one person. Male and female, all wore felt peaked caps and leather shoes, covered with a blanket. Buried with the dead were wheat grains or a small basket with dried up millet porridge, and a

I walked toward a group of dead trees and passed an area of exhausted tamarisks that died long ago. Only the thickest trunk close to the bottom of the trees lay on the ground, the rest had all gone with the wind. Most of the dead trees still stand there, but their branches have been blown away.... Normally dry and desolate, the desert is solemn and expansive, but here we see dead trees, bushes and swamps everywhere, and pits of fetid salt water surrounded by intertwined dry plants. It gives the impression of sheer desolation.

*From Archaeological Researches in Sinkiang, F. Bergman*

bundle of Chinese ephedra (*Ephedra sinica*) branches. We saw statues of women and human faces carved out of diversiform-leaved poplar, but smaller than those Bergman found in Xiaohe Tombs. Woodcarvings of human faces were put on the chest as talismans. These graves belonged to the same age of bronze civilization as the Xiaohe Tombs.

The Konqi River is the major source of water for Lop Nur. In the area of the river, all the funerary objects and the burial forms are the same — in the Xiaohe Tombs where there are 1,000 coffins watched by Iblis, in the ancient grave we explored, etc. They all reflect, with the same symbols, the civilization of the early Lop Nur residents.

### Rediscovered After 66 Years

In December 2000, sponsored by the Shenzhen Gudatang TV Advertisement Company, we entered the vast Lop Nur wilderness and finally stood before the Xiaohe Tombs.

No one had entered the Xiaohe Tombs area for 66 years since Bergman's exploration in the 1930s. As the exploration was full of unknowns, it was crucial for us to find a shortcut in the shortest possible time to the Xiaohe Tombs with the limited budget. We set our campsite at the southern foot of Kumkuduk Mountain in the lower reaches of the Konqi River, on the north bank of an



1. Coffin timbers litter the ground at the Xiaohe Tombs
2. The exploration team passes the boundless “Sea of Death” on the way to the Xiaohe Tombs
3. The author, Wang Binghua, on his trip to Xiaohe





ancient river valley. The campsite was the nearest site to the coordinates of tomb No. 5, so the site chosen was on the longitude, theoretically the most convenient spot to Xiaohé.

The moment we left our campsite, we entered a strange environment. The only guide was the global positioning system. Everywhere in the Lop Nur desert we were reminded of the ancients either geographically or historically — the old riverbed, ruins of pottery, millstones, dregs from smelting, broken bronze wares, white bones of people, as well as huge fallen diversiform-leaved poplars and sparsely dotted rose willows.

On the third day, sand dunes as high as 30 metres stretched endlessly around us. Every step required twice as much effort as a normal step. We were caught in a sandstorm rarely seen in winter. It was getting harder and harder and we walked slower and slower. We calculated that the Xiaohé Tombs was 30 km away and we could only sustain our strength on hard rations and icy water.

At noon on the fourth day, we entered a wide area of flat land. In the desert, we were surrounded by low sand dunes and sparsely dotted tamarisks. This should have been the location of the Xiaohé Tombs we

had anticipated, but it was nowhere to be seen.

We stood on a relatively high sand dune with some rose willows, looking around with our high-power binoculars full of expectations. It is beyond me to describe our uneasiness and anxiety at that moment. But soon we saw in the east on a conspicuous sand dune a cluster of thickly and orderly erected straight posts, just as Bergman showed in his picture taken over 66 years ago of the Xiaohé Tombs.

Now the Xiaohé Tombs appeared before us at last, about four kilometres from the area marked in Bergman's map. It was 9:37 a.m. on December 9, 2000.

### The Mysteries of Death in the Desert

After 66 years, the Xiaohé Tombs was not much different from what Bergman described in *Archaeological Researches in Sinkiang*, except that the Xiaohé had dried up long ago.

The sand dune of the tombs is in an oblong shape formed by the monsoon in the

Lop Nur desert blown from northeast to the southwest. The sand dune, six to seven metres high, covers over 2,400 square metres. Compared with the lower and smaller sand dunes around, it looks especially high and imposing. Over 100 multi-sided stakes, about three to four metres high and 25 cm in diameter, stand atop the sand dune. Among these stakes, there are a dozen shaped like oars as Bergman described. An octagonal post with tapering top stands in the middle of the graveyard, looking mysterious. Most of the stakes have tapering tops, which have all become white and cracked after millenniums of exposure to the elements and sun. In the eastern part of this area, there are two well-designed and well-preserved walls built of high round logs up to 50 cm in diameter. Tied with thick ropes at the base, they stand orderly in lines, neat and flat at the top. It is hard to guess their purpose.

In the most eastern part of the graveyard is a three-metre-high polygonal post carved with geometrical grooves. A large number of arc-shaped coffin boards are scattered on the sand dune, totaling more than 140. In the coffins we found a mummy of a light-haired child, felt peaked caps, and grass baskets. The well-preserved coffins are all arc-shaped.

**We came to know that the graveyard Ordok mentioned is located in the southeast. He believed that Iblis the ghost lived in the graveyard and so was too scared to show us the way. The graveyard is filled with something horrible: when he came there 15 years ago, one of his companions fell ill, and he himself suddenly woke up at midnight from a dream in which he saw a frightful ghost.**

*From Archaeological Researches in Sinkiang, F. Bergman*







On June 2, we walked further to the southeast, passing some reed marshes and crossing a river once or twice. The river runs into a beautiful little lake. I stumbled by a small grave between sand dunes. This is Grave No. 6, where a few well-preserved coffins are exposed. I collected some flakes of silk from a woman's skirt in a coffin.... That evening, Ordok finally took us to the famed graveyard he discovered.

*From Archaeological Researches in Sinkiang, F. Bergman*

1. After 4,000 years, the carved patterns on the post are still clearly visible
2. A fire is essential to keep warm on cold nights in the wilderness
3. The oars found in the graveyard prove that this dry desert once had an expanse of clear water
4. "Muzu", the central symbolic post, indicates the ancients' veneration of the human reproductive force

Two such boards put together wedged at both ends and covered by small boards and ox hide would complete a coffin, with the corpse wrapped in cilice lying in the middle. Some completely preserved coffins even have a small wood peg at each end. This burial form clearly indicates that these coffins belong to the same cultural system as the early period of graveyards excavated around the old city of Loulan and the graveyard of the Bronze Age I explored at the ancient grave gorge in 1979.

Under a sand ridge less than 100 metres north of the graveyard, a sharp-sighted camel worker accidentally found a well-preserved wooden statue of a female. The statue is 140 cm high, with a wide chest, narrow waist and plump buttocks. Her limbs are well-shaped with smooth lines and strong muscles and her hands sway naturally as if she was walking. The only pity is that her left leg is broken. By then the red colour on the carving had not yet faded. What we saw this time was different from what Bergman described in height and hand gesture.

### **A Long-Forgotten Caucasian People**

Bergman had excavated 12 graves and unearthed nearly 200 relics in the Xiaohé Tombs. Among these relics there were a few woodcarvings of genitals, as called "Muzu" in Chinese. One of these painted red was made hollow and lizard skulls were put inside it. Some wooden clubs, not for any practical use, were carved with elaborate patterns of





snakes swallowing food. The backs of the snakes were decorated with rhombus designs. Cultural anthropology tells us that snake and lizard were all symbols of genital organs to the ancients, and in the ideas of the people buried in the Xiaohe Tombs, the genitals were the source of human reproduction. They used such symbols in funerals and prayers for the prosperity of their

tribes. We can well imagine that the ancient people in this area made special use of such woodcarvings in their sacrificial rituals on this high sand dune to pray for fertility.

In an open coffin we saw the corpse of a child. His light hair and high nasal bridge were Caucasian features. This accords with the results of anthropological studies in Xinjiang on the physique of the ancients in Lop Nur.

**In a coffin found a female mummy. Her face is amazingly well-preserved... Still quite fair-skinned, her brownish black hair parts in the middle, covered with a yellow felt peaked cap which is decorated with three thin red ribbons and a strip of minever. She has a high forehead, a pretty hooknose, slightly closed thin lips reveal her teeth, leaving an eternal slight smile...**

*From Archaeological Researches in Sinkiang, F. Bergman*



About 4,000 years ago the place was inhabited mostly by Caucasians. In the period of the Loulan Kingdom, about the beginning of the Christian era, however, the Mongolians had become the predominant residents.

The finding of the Xiaohe Tombs is extraordinarily significant. Bergman discovered in the graveyard a female corpse which he described as having pretty features with a high nasal bridge, thin lips and white teeth which opened a little to reflect what must have been a charming smile. Then someone made up the story that she was the queen of Loulan. Actually in the 12 graves Bergman excavated the burial items were basically clothes and daily necessities, a basket, a few bundles of Chinese ephedra, wheat grains and some dried up millet porridge. The exposed coffin boards on the sand dune are more or less the same. At that time people were engaged in simple agricultural production and animal breeding. Without obvious polarization and class difference, the idea of a kingdom had not been created and so there couldn't have been a king to control the life of the people.

### **Death in the Desert**

Compared with the ancient grave gorge in the Konqi River valley, the Xiaohe Tombs is mostly the same in respects of ethnic group, burial customs, and relics. The findings have been scientifically dated at 4,000 years old.

Judging from the mummies and the huge sand dune where the tombs are located, there were also arid climates and deserts in Lop Nur in ancient times. Yet nourished by the branches of the Konqi River, people could still grow wheat and millet and raise cattle and sheep, and diversiform-leaved poplars and Chinese ephedra grew everywhere. But now there is not a single tree or grass, nor any traces of human beings except for the ancient graveyard to remind us of the ancient civilization once existing there. In 3,000 to 4,000 years, a boundless stretch of desert has covered this ancient civilization and reduced it to a vast





dead sea of sand after devastating changes occurred in the environment of Lop Nur.

While studying the Xiaohe Tombs, we can never ignore the harsh reality of the environmental deterioration in the Xiaohe valley. The disastrous change might be caused by many factors. When Bergman visited the place 66 years ago, he rowed a boat on the 20-metre-wide river. In the lower reaches of the river, there were also small salt lakes. In a short span of 66 years, the Xiaohe has turned into desert and nothing but a layer of salt remains of the lake. In addition, what the residents in the area did to the environment cannot be ignored either. How many trees would people have to cut every year to build houses and canoes and burn as firewood, as well as to erect a forest of diversiform-leaved poplar stakes in the tombs, and to make the arc-shaped coffins found all over the sand dunes? It takes 200 years for a diversiform-leaved poplar to mature in the desert. The elaborate funerals for the dead must have had a disastrous effect on the environment of the living.

Southwest of the graveyard still stands a beacon tower built in the Han (206 B.C.—220) and Jin (265—420) dynasties. The weather-beaten remains of the tower, about

seven metres high, are surrounded by a low earthen wall. Debris of pottery is everywhere. The ancient beacon tower marks an old route to the Konqi River valley. It indicates that Xiaohe was once an important post house on the Silk Road from Loulan to the West.

After the fourth century, Loulan declined and fell into oblivion. The fate of the people living in the Xiaohe area was immediately affected by the overall change in Loulan.

Between the old city of Loulan and the lower reaches of the Tarim River and the Konqi River, there must be many more ancient sites to be explored. They will yield even more proof that this is an historical corridor of an ancient civilization.

*Translated by Yu Ling*

1. The wooden posts in Xiaohe Tombs have left many mysteries
2. We found this female woodcarving to the north of the graveyard

## Tips for the Traveller

*Article by Li Xueliang*

Common travellers cannot enter Lop Nur individually. There must be extensive preparations:

### ○ Travel visa and procedures

- Before entering the ruins of Loulan or No. 5 graveyard of Xiaohe Tombs, visitors must obtain permission from the State Monument Bureau, and finish relevant procedures at its office in Xinjiang. Tel: (991) 2821981
- Personal documents: When passing the three checkpoints (Yingpan and Huxin which are 18 km from Loulan, and ruins of Loulan), visitors have to show the permission and personal identity documents. Reference letters are sometimes helpful, too.

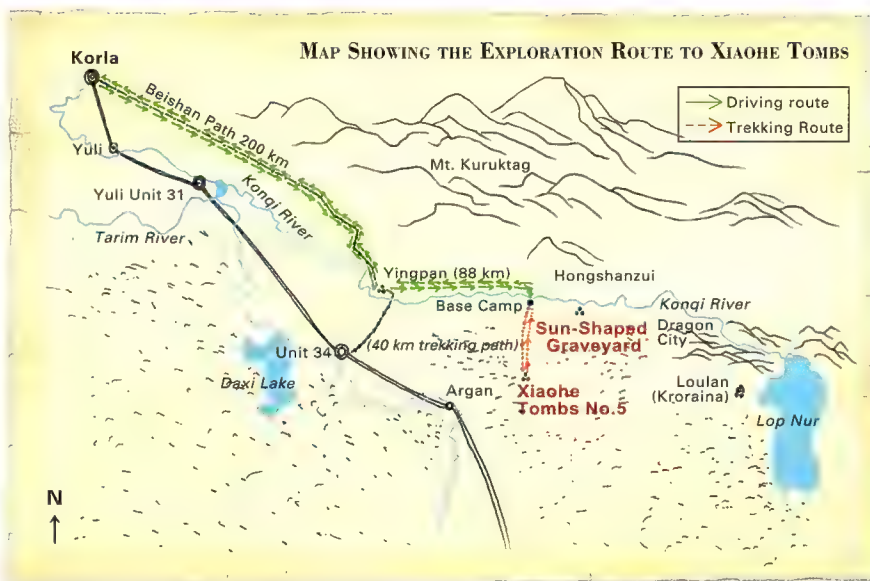
### ○ Transport

- Prepare two or more cross-country jeeps (with a logistics supply vehicle), necessary car repair equipment, adequate petrol. To hire a jeep of good quality, the cost is about 800 yuan/ day.
- To enter Lop Nur, the most important thing is to find an experienced local guide. He/ she can assist you to hire camels. For hiring a jeep or tourist guide, travellers are welcome to contact the author or Ms. Song:  
Contact no. of Li Xueliang: 138 0994 2751 E-mail: gotoxinjiang@vip.sina.com  
Contact no. of Song Yan: 138 9993 9997 E-mail: songyan2005@163.com

### ○ Bed & board, travel gear

- High energy, convenient food and a great deal of water. Once in Lop Nur, all the meals have to be cooked by one's self. Hence utensils are a must.
- Cold-resistant clothes, and a pair of warm, well-ventilated sport shoes.
- Tent, sleeping bag, mat, medicines to cure illnesses such as flu, inflammation, diarrhoea, and altitude sickness, and vitamin pills.
- Other personal things such as toiletries, toilet paper, map, global positioning system, satellite phone, military knives, lighter, mobile phone, ropes, sunglasses, shoestrings, note book, and pencils, etc.

### ○ Best period to visit: October, November, December







# BLURRED RECOLLECTIONS OF SOUTHEAST GUIZHOU

Photos by Huang Yanhong, Yang Hongyuan, & others Article by Huang Yanhong



A trip to southeastern Guizhou offers plenty of pleasant surprises. We tasted simple and plain rural food, listened to the most primitive and lovely rural symphony, watched beautiful ethnic dances, and drank wine time and again. Though we only stayed in the Miao villages a few days, these havens of peace left a deep impression on every member of our group.



**A**fter leaving Guiyang, we were surprised to find that there are even expressways in the mountainous areas of Guizhou. Our bus arrived at Kaili after crossing high mountains, and taking a zigzag path. Soon afterwards we came to Langdeshang Village between the mountain ridges and fields. It is a typical Miao village. Since 1985 it has been open to the public, and in 1997 it was named China Folk Art Land by the Ministry of Culture.

## Entering the Langdeshang Village

Stilt houses are built on the mountain slopes. As soon as our bus had stopped, the mountainous area was bustling with people. A small winding path from the highway leads to the village. We had to drink wine 12 times before entering the village. More than 10 "lusheng" (a reed-pipe wind instrument) players stood on the ridge of fields in a line, playing music. The villagers in their holiday best came out to welcome the guests, holding wine cups made of ox horns. They were so hospitable that we could hardly decline. Not a good drinker, I tried to decline the wine with the excuse of taking pictures. However there were so many offers that I could not muddle through all of them. Moreover it was impolite to refuse, so I was a little tiddy when I arrived at the lusheng ground.

The small paths in the village are all paved with cobblestones; so is the lusheng ground. By the lusheng ground stands a folk customs exhibition hall, which was constructed by the villagers. More and more people came to the lusheng ground. All the women were dressed up, with dazzling silver ornaments worn by the girls, such as silver horns, crowns, plates, chains, hats and locks. With the sound of drums, the welcome performance began. More than 10 girls danced to the lusheng music played by four young men. The lusheng dance is one of the three major dances in Leishan, the other two being the wooden drum dance and bronze drum dance.

After the performance, the women villagers formed a semi-circle with bamboo baskets in front of them. They invited tourists to choose goods from the baskets. However they were not allowed to pester customers. Only when tourists went close to them, could they peddle silver ornaments, batiks, embroideries and other handicrafts, and bargain.



3

1. Performers dress themselves up with great care (by Yang Hongyuan)
2. Every visitor must accept wine and meat from the women before entering Chejiang Dong Village
3. The clothes of the ladies in Cenzui Village are like a warrior's gown
4. Wearing the unique Hundred-Bird Clothes of the Moon Hill Branch, the Miao ladies in Baibei Village look like colourful birds (by Lin Qiang)



4



## Delicacies in Baibei Miao Village

High in the mountains, Baibei Village has preserved many ancient, simple and primitive traditions. Hence it's known as an "Alfresco Museum of Miao Folk Customs".

We got on the bus in the Rongjiang County seat, and got off at the foot of a mountain. Then we climbed the mountain for about an hour before we came to the entrance of the village in the drizzle.

Miao girls holding ox-horn cups were waiting for us. No visitor was allowed to enter the village unless he had drunk several cups of wine. "After you, after you," each politely asked the other to drink wine first. Before entering the village, I had to drink wine offered by three girls. I had no choice but to empty three ox horn cups. My face was wet with wine, and everything before me became blurred. As soon as I had drunk, a girl carrying a big basin arrived. Before I saw clearly what was in the basin, a thick piece of pork was put into my mouth. The pork was delicious, and not greasy at all. Before I finished eating the pork, another woman came with a glutinous rice ball. The rice ball was so delicious that I slowed my steps, hoping some other delicacies would come.



## Fragrant Pork Stewed in a Wooden Bucket

We had not expected that farmers in the remote and isolated village could prepare such delicious food.

Stepping on the wooden boards, we entered a stilt house, and sat



around a fire pit. The host put pottery bowls, wild vegetables, cured meat, and home-brewed wine on a small round wooden table. The most delicious food was the fragrant pork stew in a wooden bucket. Prepared with broth, the stew was fragrant and delicious, and had the sweet scent of Chinese prickly ash. It was so delicious that I could not help eating one bowl after another. When I felt full, I

stood up to walk. Then I sat down to continue eating. I had eight bowls, breaking my personal record. Before leaving the house, we were surprised to learn from another table that photographer Yang took 17 bowls of fragrant pork stew.

## The Ancient Palace Hairstyle

Soon after leaving Rongjiang County seat, our bus took a winding mountain road 70 km along the rugged mountain before coming to Langdong. It is a small town inhabited by both the Miao and Dong people. It takes only 10 minutes to walk from Langdong to the Cenzui Miao Village.

Cenzui Village enjoys a reputation as a gem in the deep mountains. The first sight astonished us — the village women wearing the typical ancient palace hairstyles. They wind their long and black hair into high buns and rolls. Were such hairdos left over from ancient times? We asked how they could protect their hair so well and they told us they used a natural plant.

We had to drink more wine. I did not try to avoid drinking this time. After a few days in the Miao area, I was used to drinking wine and became much braver. Each of us was given a colorful embroidered belt, and a pink painted





eggshell to hang on our necks.

In an open area by the village, a group of lusheng musicians began to play. Over 10 lusheng of different lengths played, and four thick bamboo tubes gave out deep and resonant bass scales. Thanks to the high mountains that surround the village, the rural symphony was so majestic and melodious that the whole audience was intoxicated.

After a multi-gun salute, girls came to the stage to sing and dance, accompanied by lusheng music.

## Chejiang Village — a Pastoral Poem

Chejiang Dong Village is a large community inhabited by 1,000 Dong households, with a large population, a great number of trees and picturesque scenery. As a matter of fact, Chejiang Village consists of nine villages, with a total of 2,400 households.

The seat of Rongjiang County is a land of water. Local people call it the "political, cultural and flood centre." Chejiang Village is only several kilometres from this centre, so it is often flooded too. The Dong village sits by the Duli River, which is lined by several hundred ancient green banyan trees planted during the Qianlong reign period of the Qing Dynasty (1644—1911). The village is shaded by these tall and straight trees with twisted roots and gnarled branches.

The Dong people have unique customs and costumes. Though the costumes of Dong girls are not so colourful and dazzlingly bright as those of the Miao, they are pretty and graceful, setting off their young and beautiful faces.



Translated by Kuang Peihua



1. Miao ladies of Liangwang Township wear short skirts which are only about 20 cm long (by Yang Hongyuan)
2. Delicious food is fed to the guests (by Huang Yanhong)
3. The Dong people in the Chejiang Dong Village put on performances at the Drum Tower, known as the largest of its kind in the world
4. Women wearing the ancient palace hairstyle in Cenzui Miao Village (by Huang Yanhong)
5. A long street banquet is thrown in Langdong Village. Each neighbour volunteers to prepare a dish to present to the host (by Huang Yanhong)
6. Every guest to the Miao villages must drink wine from the ox-horn cup offered by the Miao ladies (by Yang Hongyuan)

## Travel Tips

▼ **Transport:** Many buses go regularly from Guiyang to Kaili. It is 42 km from Kaili to Leishan. Tourists may also go directly from Guiyang to Leishan by bus. Langdeshang Village is on the way from Kaili to Leishan. Buses run 173 km from Kaili to Rongjiang regularly. There is one bus a day from Guiyang to Rongjiang. Baibei Village is 53 km from Rongjiang county seat, with one regular bus a day. One daily bus goes 70 km from Langdong town to Rongjiang county seat. Tourists can go from Rongjiang county seat to Chejiang Dong Village by tricycle.

▼ **Accommodation:** (Leishan county seat) Leishan Hotel, New Century Hotel, Jianxin Hotel. Rate: 60–120 yuan/ day; (Langdeshang Village) village hostels: 60–100 yuan/ day; (Langdong Town) small inns: 10 yuan/bed; Tourists can also stay in the Miao house with the consent of the host, but you'd better to contact with the village committee beforehand.

▼ **Suggested itinerary:** You may start your trip from Guiyang to Langdeshang Village first, then go to Rongjiang County, where you may rent an automobile to take tours of the villages.





photography

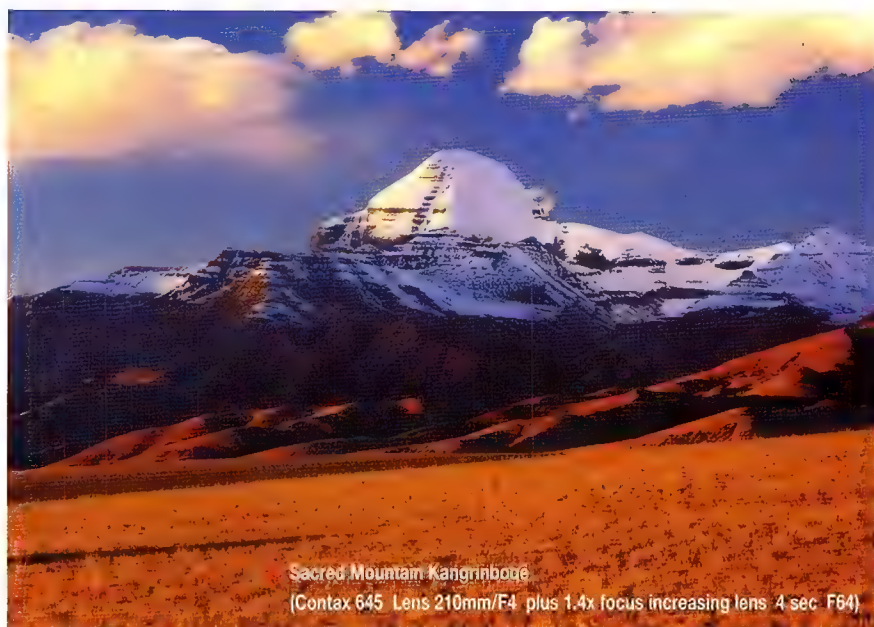
# Taking Pictures from The Roof of the World

*Photos & article by Li Rong*

© Burang at sunrise after a patient wait for the sunlight to fall on the village houses  
(Contax 645 Lens 210mm/F4 plus 1.4x focus increasing lens 1 sec F45)



Our journey to Tibet last September started when we flew into Chengdu, then to Lhasa, the beginning of 23 amazing days. Three cross-country jeeps loaded with grain, water, and medicines for preventing altitude sickness and special frontier passes for restricted places waited for us in Lhasa.



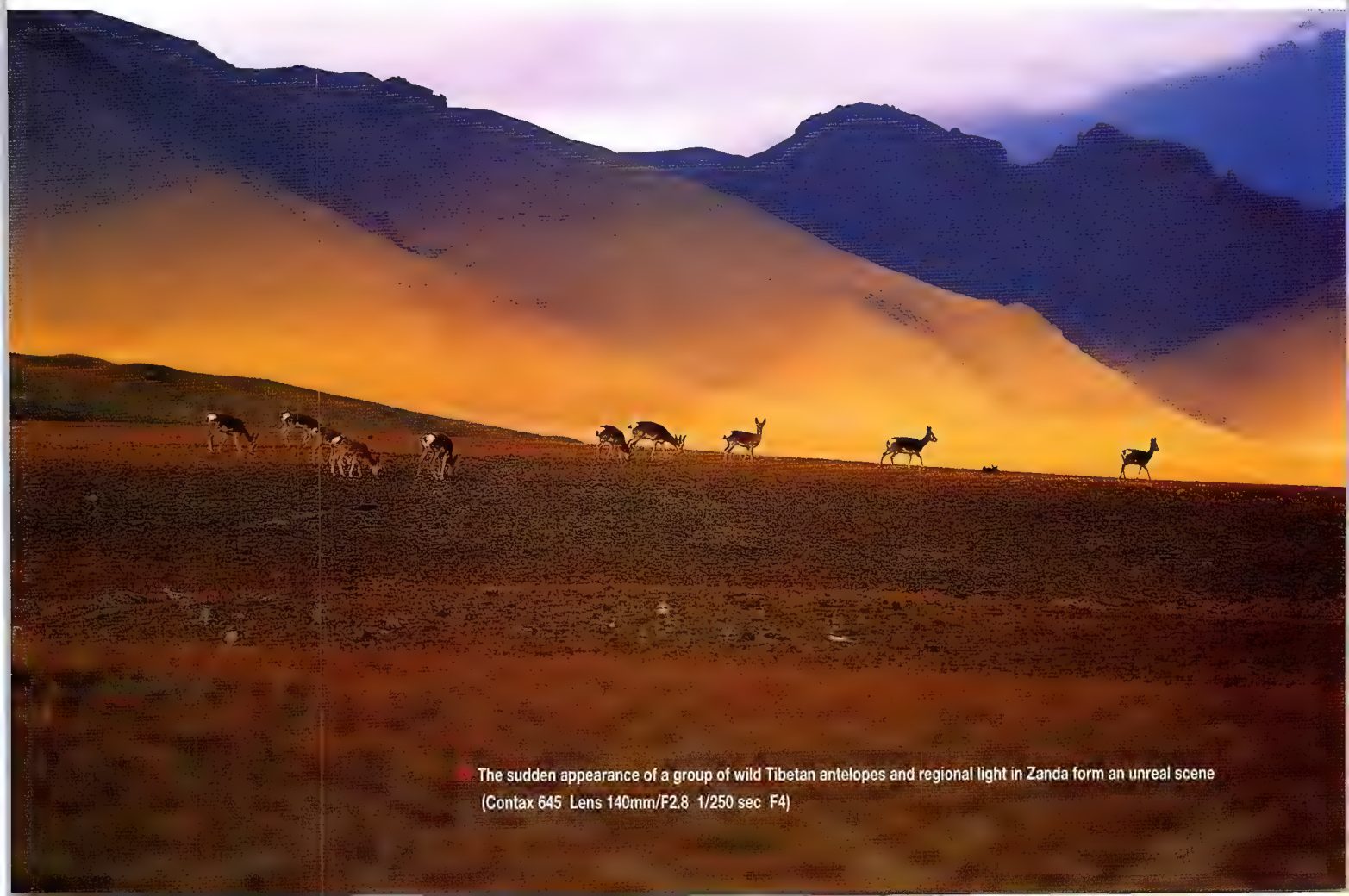
Sacred Mountain Kangrinboqe  
(Contax 645 Lens 210mm/F4 plus 1.4x focus increasing lens 4 sec F64)

### Enchanting **Burang** at Dawn

Burang is a small village. It is extraordinary because it backs on to a huge precipice, behind which is a snow-covered peak. The beautiful scenery of dramatic contrast is only seen at dawn when the precipice is dark and large, and the village is bright and small. To seize the enchanting sight, we must arrive at the village before dawn, but, crucially, there must be sunshine.

### Morning Glory at **La'nga Co**

The lakes on the Tibet Plateau are like jewels on a crown, multicoloured and dazzling. La'nga Co, also known as the Ghost Lake, is a salt lake. In the morning, the calm and tranquil surface can reflect the shadows of the surrounding mountains; and the lake water is so clear that visitors can count the pebbles at the bottom. I used a polariscope to readjust the reflection of light on the lake surface to



The sudden appearance of a group of wild Tibetan antelopes and regional light in Zanda form an unreal scene  
(Contax 645 Lens 140mm/F2.8 1/250 sec F4)





• The wonderful reflection of La'nga Co, the highest salt water lake in China  
(Contax 645 Lens 80mm/ F2 1/125 sec F8)

present the mountains, blue skies and white clouds as well as the lake close to the bank.

Kangrinboqê, the Sacred Mountain, is special because of its round summit. In the afternoon we arrived at the foot of the mountain. We asked the driver to park the jeep on the eastern side so we could take pictures of the mountain in sidelight. The right direction of the light strengthened the stereoscopic vision of the sacred mountain. The sunlight at dusk added a golden colour to the landscape, and made the grassland in the foreground look more splendid in autumn.

One day during a stuffy noon while I was taking a nap in the bumping jeep, holding my camera in my hands, a team member in the front cried out suddenly: "Look, wild sheep! A large flock of wild sheep." I woke with a start. The Tibetan driver was very smart. He quietly parked the jeep by the flock of sheep that were eating grass. I put my camera with a medium-range lens on the window of the jeep, anticipated the movements of the

sheep, and pressed the shutter lightly.

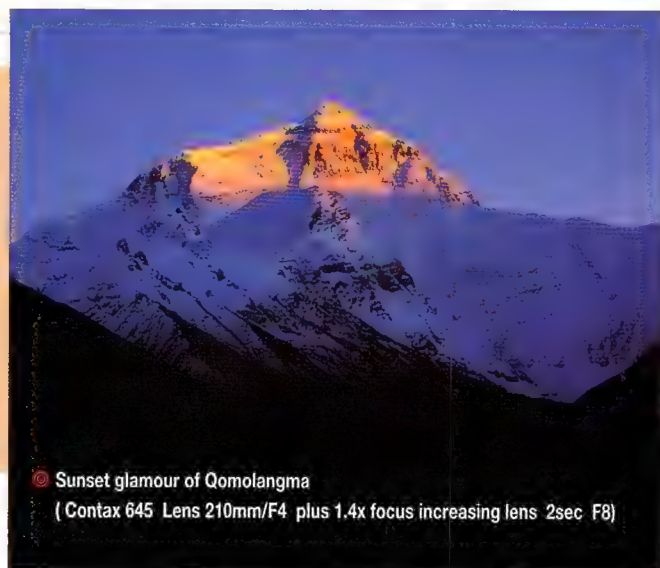
## Capturing Qomolangma

To take the pictures of the setting sun on Qomolangma, we stood on the slope by the Rongpo Monastery, braving the freezing cold wind, with the prayer flags pitter-pattering. We set up our tripods and took pictures with our frozen stiff hands. I fixed my tripod by hanging my camera backpack on the tripod's central axle to resist the strong wind, and took pictures by using my long-focus lens. We were lucky. The weather was fine, and there were no clouds around the summit, in addition to ideal luminosity. I set a small aperture and a fairly quick shutter speed to avoid shaking. The peak was bathed in rays of evening sunshine, with the luminosity close to 18° grey. I took the summit as the base for exposure.

©

## Photographic Equipment

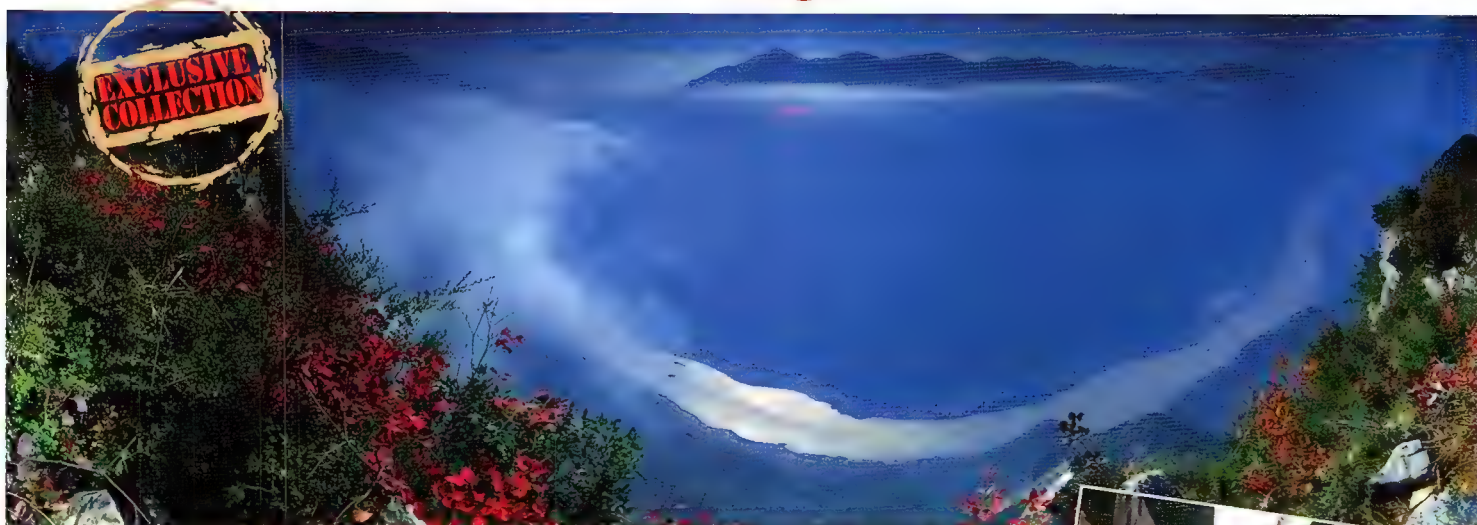
My experience told me that medium and long-focus lens were indispensable. What I used was a 6 x 4.5 Contax camera. To deal with the lower air pressure, I brought a number of lithium batteries, and a box to hold them, because sometimes I needed to put the batteries in the pocket of my down-padded coat to keep them warm. In October in Tibet, the temperature in the morning and evening may be lower than -10°C, and at noon may be 30~40°C. I prepared a medium-sized suitcase, which was bulging with summer and winter clothes, a heavy bag for my photographic equipment, a tripod, 200 rolls of film, and a vacuum flask, which was very important.



• Sunset glamour of Qomolangma  
(Contax 645 Lens 210mm/F4 plus 1.4x focus increasing lens 2sec F8)



## Feature Story: The Eternal Three Gorges

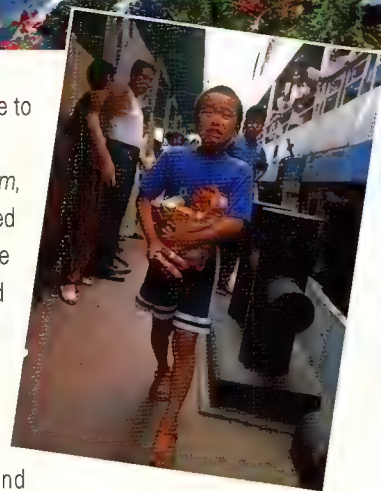


June 1, 2003, was a momentous day for China. The water level of the Three Gorges Reservoir began its rise to 135 metres in just 15 days. The millennia-old scenery of the Three Gorges was altered forever.

In the last six years, Zheng Yunfeng, professional photographer and a special correspondent of *China Tourism*, has walked across mountain ranges and through soon-to-be-submerged towns in the Three Gorges, interviewed relocated residents who have lived on both banks of the Yangtse as their ancestors had done, and recorded historical relics found by archeologists who raced against time to preserve history. His photos, a record of the history, are especially precious.



The collection will also include the latest information on transportation, accommodation, restaurants, and itineraries, as well as old and new scenic spots.



### On the Way: Dropping Out of the Rat Race in Northwestern Yunnan

The ancient city of Lijiang and Lugu Lake in Yunnan Province are already very familiar to travellers. As more and more famous tourist destinations become commercialized, some people still come to these places not as tourists, but for a different kind of lifestyle. Just like the two characters interviewed in this story: a New Zealander who works in an orphanage in Lijiang, and a Hong Kong girl who works as a volunteer teacher in Lugu Lake area.



### Discoveries: The Chinese-Russians of Inner Mongolia

In late 19th Century, many Russians came to live and start families with Chinese in the area by the Ergun River, in northernmost Inner Mongolia which borders Russia. Their descendents, with mixed Chinese and Russian blood, have tasted joy and sorrow thanks to their uncommon background.



### Profile: Simon Yam

Better known for his outstanding acting and model wife, Hong Kong artist Simon Yam Tat Wah is also noted for his love of travel and photography. Whenever he is away shooting a film, he spends his spare time taking pictures, and his works always reflect his unique taste. In "Profile", he shares his perspectives with our readers.





# Up the Hills and Down the Creeks of Mt. Wuyi

Photos & article by Huang Yanhong

**L**ocated on the border between northern Fujian Province and mountainous area of Jiangxi Province, Mt. Wuyi covers 700,000 sq km. The mountain is one of the few places in China that has been put on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage list by UNESCO.

## Ascend the Peak at Night

Tianyou (Heavenly Tour) Peak is considered the premier scenic spot at Mt. Wuyi and one of the best places to watch the sea of clouds. We went there one day, but

failed to see the clouds. According to the local people, clouds were thick in the early morning. So we decided to go again the following morning.

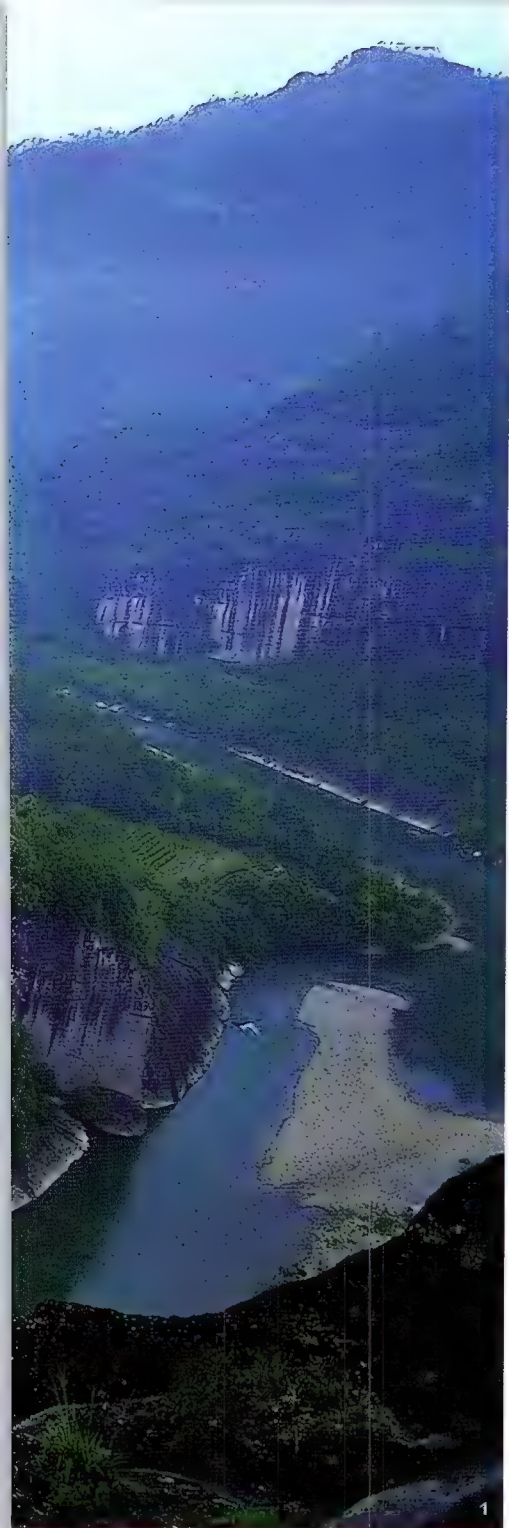
As I climbed the mountain, I began to feel the hot, muggy weather. Soon I was soaked with sweat. The sky began to reveal a thread of light. Fearing I would miss the clouds at the mountain peak, I hurried up and finally had the mountain beneath me. From here, the view was fantastic, with the Nine Bend Creek snaking its way at the foot of the mountain. Though I had a full view of the

mountain peaks, the view of clouds was not satisfactory, as they were drifting in the mountains quite some distance away.

## Nine Bend Creek

The 63-km-long Nine Bend Creek originates on the southern slope of Mt. Wuyi. Its upper reaches are known as the Tongmu Creek. After passing Xingcun Town, the river meanders among mountains for 10 km, with nine bends and 18 turns. This section of the river is the highlight of Mt. Wuyi. Tourists can





sit on bamboo rafts and sail in gentle breeze to appreciate a gallery of fascinating scenery.

My first view on the cruise was the Ninth Bend where the Qiyun Peak and Baiyun (White Cloud) Rock stood in a row like guards of honour, welcoming the tourists. At the foot of the hill in the distance was the Baiyun Temple. After a great turn, we entered the Eighth Bend where the creek was dotted with strange rocks, resembling the shapes of frogs, camels, lions, and other animals as if we were in a water zoo. The Seventh Bend was rather turbulent and the clear water splashed our



feet. Soon Tianyou Peak loomed ahead, making a unique feature of the Sixth Bend. Suddenly the view opened up as the creek widened. Here at the Fifth Bend, the watercourse was expansive and the flow gentle. Sitting on the raft, we seemed to be enjoying a slow melody on the bass after a quick tune on the violin. The Fourth Bend was flanked by two huge hills, Dazang Peak and the Immortal's Fishing Terrace. The Third Bend was best known for the coffins of the ancient people high on the cliffs. Even more mysteriously, the coffins were built in the shape of boats, known as boat coffins. Yunü (Jade Girl) Peak by the Second Bend was by far the most graceful peak at Mt. Wuyi. Looking across at the First Bend was Dawang (Great King) Peak with Tieban (Iron Platter) Peak in between.

### A Tiger's Eye View of Mt. Wuyi

Tourists at Mt. Wuyi mostly follow circular roads. Once you arrive at Huxiaoyan (Tiger Roaring Rock), sedan chair carriers in yellow *kungfu* costumes approach you offering their services: 160 yuan for a round trip in a sedan chair.

The rest of us slowly climbed along the mountain path, panting and gasping all the way. After making several turns, suddenly a

terrace on top of sheer cliffs appeared. From here, we had a panoramic view of Mt. Wuyi: Dawang, Tianyou and Tieban peaks spreading out in front of us.

Having conquered Tianti (Heavenly Ladder), we entered a tranquil grove. Here the Tiancheng Temple lay at the foot of a huge

1. Nine Bend Creek winds from the mountain range of Mt. Wuyi
2. Tourists file up the mountain path to Tianyou Peak
3. The best way to enjoy the graceful scenery along the Nine Bend Creek is to sail on a bamboo raft







serving could last a dozen cups. The less expensive sort could be used two or three times. If you poured water on the tea and then drank it five times and the tea water remained the same colour, you knew the tea could stand several more servings



rock. The broad stone roof is part of the natural terrain, providing shelter to the Goddess of Mercy. A few steps away is Yuer (Baby Talk) Spring where water gushes out, gurgling like a baby learning to speak.

### The World's Most Expensive Tea

The most valuable local produce at Mt. Wuyi is tea. "Dahongpao" (Great Red Robe) is by far the most famous, for there are only three trees of this species, each producing

about one-third of a kilogram a year. At the 1998 auction, 20 grams of the Great Red Robe was sold for 150,000 yuan. The least expensive is Pingdi Tea which is affordable for everyone. Local people often use tea leaves to fill their pillows, believing it is good for the health of old people and children. The easiest way of making the best tea, said the girl, was to pour hot water on it and each



1. In early morning, a crystal moon falls behind Mt. Wuyi  
2. Riding a sedan chair is an easier way to ascend the mountain

### ■ Tips for the Traveller ■

• **Admission:** All-inclusive ticket: 111 yuan; ruins of Han-Dynasty Town in Chengcun village (30 yuan).

#### • **Transportation:**

**Air:** The Wuyishan Airport is 7 km from either the city and scenic area. More than 10 routes are available from Hong Kong, Beijing, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Jinan, Nanjing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Wenzhou, Xiamen and Zhoushan, etc.

**Railway:** There are regular train services to Mt. Wuyi from Fuzhou, Quanzhou, Shanghai and Xiamen. The trains from Fuzhou to Hefei, Nanjing and Shanghai all stop at Mt. Wuyi.

**Transportation within the scenic area:** There are many buses and taxis taking passengers from the railway station to the city district and the scenic area. The distance between the railway station and the city district is 2 km. The bus ride costs 50 cents and the taxi, 2-5 yuan. To the scenic area, which is 12 km away, the fare is 3-5 yuan for a taxi ride. The airport is linked with the city district and scenic area by bus and taxi, 7 km away in both cases. The bus fare is 3-5 yuan.

• **Telephone:** China Travel Service (Hong Kong): (852) 2853 3715

• **Climate:** Mt. Wuyi enjoys subtropical moist monsoon climate with distinctive four seasons. The summer is not very hot and the winter is not very cold. The annual average temperature is 18.55°C.

#### • **Accommodation:**

Wuyishan Youdian Hotel ★★★

Rate: 266 yuan/ standard room

Tel: (599) 5252888

Wuyishan Green Bamboo Villa ★★★

Tel: (599) 5253888

Rate: 220 yuan/ standard room

• **Special produce:** The Wuyi Yancha (Rock Tea) is one of the 10 most famous teas in China.

You can buy it from a tea farm or at the Song Street of Wuyi Palace, Sangu Tourism Holiday Zone. Bamboo shoot is another indigenous produce, known for cooking such delicacies as Clear Water Bamboo and

Bamboo Stewed with pig trotters. Besides snake liquor, mushrooms, lotus seeds, Wengong liquor and many arts and crafts are also ideal tourist souvenirs.





# Racing Along Tongmu Creek

Article by Xie Xiaoming

The Tongmu Creek Valley is 28 km west of Mt. Wuyi. The valley starts at the southwest of Mt. Huanggang, the main peak in Mt. Wuyi Nature Reserve, and the creek twists and turns, carrying its clear water along a course flanked by towering mountains. The rafting section is six kilometres with a drop of 300 metres in altitude and takes 80 minutes to complete.

After the inflatable sets off, it slowly enters Jubaotan (Treasure House) Pool where the water is slow and gentle. Leaving Dragon Pool, the boat quickens and a 50-metre sliding route at a 30° gradient appeared. Amid the screaming and shouting of tourists, the boat dashed along the rapids. After a lightening surge, I suddenly felt the river became calm again.

The scenery of mountains and river changed as the boat moved forward and before I knew we shot forward over a metre-high waterfall. The water bursting on the rocks created great splashes, as well as loud screams from the tourists.

At the Shimen (Stone Gate), the boat rushed forward, leaving its passengers seemingly still in the air. Then it surged out, as if it had just taken a deep dive.



2

In front of us was a place called Golden Stone (Jinshi) Shoal known for the rocks in strange shapes. On reaching "Yuelongmen" (Leaping Dragon Gate), it came to the highlight of the trip and gave the tourists the greatest excitement. Like a black dragon, the boat moved in the mists and dashed into the water 2.8 metres below. Many tourists often decide to abandon the boat and go ashore at this point. Only the bravest complete the journey and find out the real meaning and significance of this great dive.



Translated by F. Huang



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1. The 2.8-metre-high Leaping Dragon Gate will surely take your breath away
2. You have to have great courage to take a cruise on the turbulent Tongmu Creek
3. Lifeguards leap to the rescue when a raft overturns

## Tips for Rafting

- The place to board the bamboo rafts is at Xingcun Town, and can be reached by taking a bus from the city. Rafting (6 people): 100 yuan/ person. The boatmen will help you to find enough partners, or you can pay 600 yuan to charter a raft. You are also suggested to give tips (10 yuan/ person) to the boatmen.
- To sail through the turbulent river course, you need to contact the local travel agency, sign up and then go to Tongmu Creek. Fees: 80 yuan. Wuyishan China Travel Service: (599) 5251888. But the tours may be cancelled if there are too few participants.



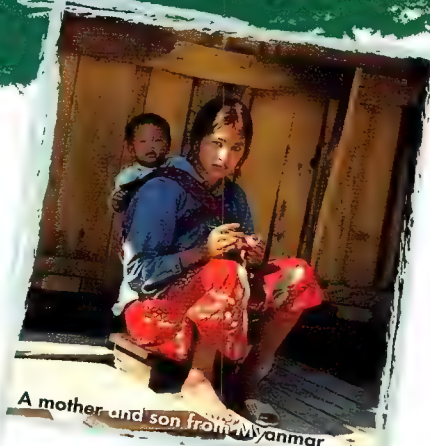
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EDITOR'S NOTE: CHINA IS AN IDEAL DESTINATION FOR ADVENTUROUS EXPLORERS. THE READERS IN THESE TWO STORIES MADE EXCITING AND MEANINGFUL EXPLORATIONS OF THE NUJIANG RIVER IN YUNNAN PROVINCE AND MAOER MOUNTAIN IN GUANGXI ZHUANG AUTONOMOUS REGION.

# Entering the NUJIANG GRAND CANYON of Yunnan

Photos & article by Shen Haiqing



A mother and son from Myanmar



The first bend of the Nujiang

The Nujiang River springs from the southern slopes of Tanggular Mountain on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. From its upper stream in Nagqu (Heishuihe, or Black Water River), it flows through Gongshan, Fugong and Lushui counties in Nujiang Prefecture, to form the 300-km-long, 2,000-metre-deep Nujiang Canyon. I toured the westernmost part of the area formed by the Nujiang, Minjiang and Lancang Rivers, which has the most scenic landscapes.

Since the Nujiang Canyon has few developed scenic spots, I decided to pay a visit in the Spring Festival. At Beijing, I boarded a night train to Dali in Kunming, and got on a bus at Dali to Liuku, the seat of the Nujiang Prefecture government.

## Stone Eggs Road

At 10 a.m. on the second morning, I set off by bus along an expressway to the mountainous canyon in western Yunnan. Who would have known that we had to travel over the area's unique roads—the stone eggs roads—paved with stones that are smaller than a thumb. The road became very rough and our speed slowed greatly. Just after the Lancangjiang River, the bus went northwestward, leaving State Highway 320. We were stopped and checked by armed police at the boundary point. I was the only passenger on the bus. Seven and half hours passed slowly like this. We finally arrived Liuku Town at 5:30 p.m.

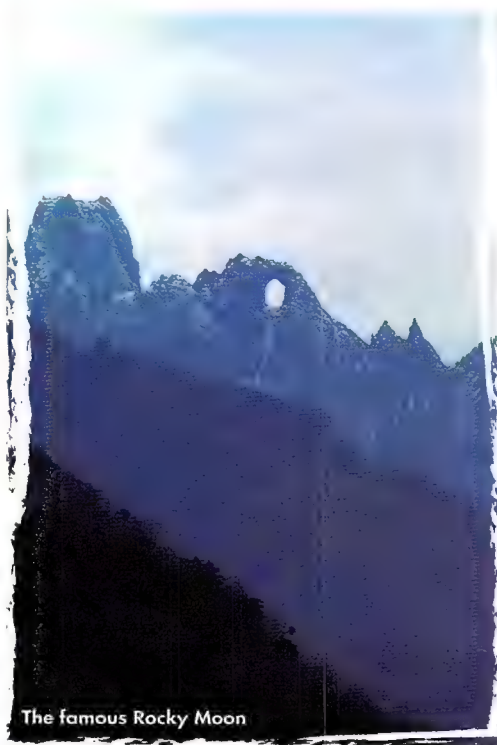
## Bathing by the Riverside

Liuku, a town in Lushui County in Nujiang Prefecture, is the seat of the prefecture government. The town spreads across both sides of the Nujiang, and the two sides are linked by an arched bridge and a suspension bridge built in 1970, but now closed to motor vehicles. The weather in Liuku is mild and prices are affordable.

I chose to visit Nujiang during the Spring Festival on purpose. The Lisu nationality people from near and far gather around the hot springs beside the Nujiang River to celebrate the public Spring Bath Festival from the second to fifth days of the first







The famous Rocky Moon

lunar month. It was the fourth day when I arrived, and I took the time to shoot photos. I mixed with the locals and took a bus north to Nujiang. Soon, I saw a big crowd on the highway in front of me. With their luggage, cooking utensils and dressed in their best, the

Lisu people, old and young, male and female, gathered and set up tents. In the tents, they made clothes, drinks, handicrafts, special local produce, and sold their poultry. There were also traditional ethnic performances like "walking up the knife hill", and "the fire swing".

I left the highway and walked down the Nujiang riverside. Finally, I found two "public baths". The hot spring water flows into a natural al fresco public bathing pool. The bathers were all women, children and elderly people. They were not embarrassed by the attentions of the opposite sex, and frolicked in the pool. There were few tourists, but many photographers. There was a board warning that close-up photography was prohibited, in respect of local customs. The locals say the festival of the Lisu people was developed long ago. Perhaps this is a way to enjoy life and make friends with the opposite sex.

### A Rocky Moon

The Nujiang Grand Canyon stretches 300 km from Liuku in the south to Bingzhongluo Township in Gongshan County in the north. The whole route is connected by the highway, which runs parallel to the river. We took a car instead of walking. Going north from Liuku, we were on the stone egg road again. Our speed dropped to less than 40 km per hour. However, the river water here was emerald green, and as smooth as silk. On the east of Nujiang is Biluo Snow Mountain, and on the west Mt. Gaoligongshan. Both were spectacular. Influenced by the southwestern monsoon climate from the Indian Ocean, a "vertical climate" is formed on the mountain where there are four distinctive seasons.

We went the opposite way to the river alongside Gaoligongshan Mountain. Gradually, we approached the snow-capped mountain. The Nujiang was not peaceful any more as the river became narrow and long, surging with white water. In the middle of the river, there were reefs that the locals call Hutiaoxia (Tiger Jumping Rocks).

Our car crossed the Bifu Bridge, crossing the Nujiang River to reach the Biluo Snow Mountain on the eastern side, and finally entered Fugong County. We accelerated on the asphalt road. Passing the county seat, we went northward to the boundary of Shadi Township, where we could see a huge circular hole in the middle of Gaoligongshan Mountain peak. It was as round as the moon, from which it gained its name, Rocky Moon — a famous scenic spot in the Nujiang Grand Canyon. Our car stopped by the viewing terrace. The Rocky Moon and the river formed an extremely picturesque scene.

### Panorama of Nujiang River

The next morning, we hired a car (100 yuan) to go to the Bingzhongluo Township, 45 km to the north. We had to pass the First Bend of Nujiang River before noon.

The river was tranquil and delicate on the way, with ancient villages on both sides. As the highway climbed higher and higher, we stopped our car and got out. We saw a huge rock carved with five red Chinese characters: 怒江第一湾 (First Bend of Nujiang). I held my breath and looked down the cliff: what a sight!

The First Bend of the Yangtse located in the Shigu Town of Lijiang in Yunnan and the Yarlung Zangbo Canyon in Tibet are strikingly powerful. But the First Bend of the Nujiang is different. Its waters flow southward from Tibet, and turn to the west near Ridan Village in Bingzhongluo Township. It meets the Danla Mountain (where I stood) at a distance of just 300 metres. Then it goes east by turning 180 degrees — this is the famous the First Bend of the Nujiang, the most beautiful scene in the canyon. Since the Gaoligongshan Mountain would block the sun in the afternoon, it was better to take photos before one o'clock. And the best position was at the huge rock beside the cliff. Later, we continued to drive north. Soon we saw another bend. There was a hanging bridge over the river, which also made an attractive scene.

We arrived at the haven of Bingzhongluo Township. The Nujiang was still as pure as jade. At the end of the highway was a wooden house. There were some advertising flags promoting China Mobile. It was where we ended our tour. We returned to Gongshan County after lunch, and took a long-distance bus to Liuku, 248 km away, with my mind still swimming with memories of the Nujiang Great Canyon.





# FLYING TIGERS, HIDDEN HISTORY

Photos by Tan Nina Article by Xiaowen



Taking a photo by the wreckage

On October 2, 1996, deep in the Mt. Maoershan in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, two locals who lost their way on a trip to collect herbs accidentally discovered the wreckage of an aircraft scattered in the valley. After they reported their find to the local government, the authorities quickly closed the whole valley. After careful inspection and examination, it was confirmed that the wreckage was really the remains of an American flight during the Second World War.



The wreckage of the crashed Flying Tiger

Setting off from the mangrove forest in Nanning, Guangxi, a carefully equipped mountaineering team was going to cross the Daiyun Peak of Mt. Maoershan along a great canyon stretching five kilometres.

## Crossing Mt. Maoershan

Mt. Maoershan is located at the source of the Lijiang River. The lushly green mountain with the aroma of mud and flowers has already been "occupied" by arrow bamboo. There were no other kinds of trees. Thick moss has grown on the rocky walls.

Our team was divided into four groups of four and one group leader, as well as two friends from the administrative station assisting us. Each group was given a map drawn to scale 10,000:1. However,

the tour guide seemed more accurate than the global positioning system. For instance, the GPS of our tour leader was out of order as soon as we entered the mountain valley. It weighed as heavy as a piece of iron. When we reached the peak, it became normal again.

## Grasp the Moment of Life

The campsite that night was the worst I have seen in my life, with a few tents set on the valley floor or on a 70-degree bamboo forest slope. We female teammates tried our best to search for other sites. Finally we found two rocks grown with moss as big as a circular desk. We set a four-angle tent on them.

The next morning, the air was fresh and humid, and there was no mist. The path to the second site was as arduous as we predicted. The





The panorama from the top of Mt. Maoershan

Danxia (red cliffs) as tall as 200 metres were everywhere. We climbed the rocks on both sides.

Suddenly, a female teammate above me slipped. She was on a 70-degree slope, and was using a rock-climbing motion to step on a group of tree roots that were twisted together. But the roots, which appeared stable, suddenly broke under her weight. My head whirled in panic. I thought: Everything's over! Can I hold on? With my hands clinging to the rank grass and my body lying half prone on the slope, I watched her hopelessly. I was deeply afraid that she would continue to slip towards me, and I was wondering if I could stop her.

Fortunately, she stopped just three metres above me on a bamboo branch before I screamed again. At that moment, the only thing I hoped was she would not fall anymore, for it was impossible for me to save her alone. But she soon turned lightly around and found a stepping point between my legs. Then, she turned back and climbed the rock again. I truly appreciated her fearlessness.

### Resting in Peace

"Have you heard about the mysterious legend? There will be a magical energy changing the lives of the tomb stealers..." I felt terrified while listening. It seemed that the spirits of the aviators were flying everywhere in the valley. Their broken bodies, scattered in the crash,

protected the flight like guardian gods. I secretly took out a piece of aluminium wreckage that I had put in my pocket and placed it back in the gravel. Although I respect the volunteer aviators from the bottom of my heart, I could not bear seeing them in my daily life!

The wreckage of a war flight may be worth keeping and make one proud, but it would destroy a historic site if they were taken away. So we pledged to remove nothing.

The last stop was the third site of the crashed flight. Perhaps we knew we were approaching the destination, we seemed to control our obviously stirring emotions, and walked faster. Still, we were two to three hours later than our expected time.

The joystick was deeply embedded in the Qianchiya (Thousand Feet Cliff). Ten names of the American pilots were carved on a piece of black marble. Seeing the flight's ruins spread over the mountain valley and standing on the striking mountain ranges, I felt awe-struck. Before I left, I placed a small flower in the rock gap, expressing my respect for them.

### TRAVEL TIPS

**Location:** Located in northern Guilin and 80 km from the city area, the Maoershan Nature Reserve covers 17,008 hectares, crossing Xing'an, Ziyuan, and Longsheng counties, and is the source of the Lijiang, Zijiang, and Xunjiang rivers. The mountain also adjoins the Yangtse and Pearl Rivers. Its highest peak stands 2,142 above sea level, which is the highest in South China. It also boasts 311 varieties of wild animals and 1,720 kinds of alpine plants.

**Transport:** Mt. Maoershan is located in Xing'an County, 60 km north of Guilin city area. It can be reached by taking scheduled bus to Huaqiang, and another bus to Gaozhai Village at the bottom of the mountain. There is only one bus there and back in the morning and afternoon, going up and down the mountain.

**Bed & board:** Hostel in Gaozhai: 30 yuan/ night (including meals). Midnight snack with wine for two people: 30 yuan. On the peak of Mt. Maoershan are hotels, reception centres, with rates ranging from a few to a few hundred yuan. Camping is free in the forest, but fires and smoking are forbidden.

**Tips:** The Maoershan Grand Canyon is picturesque so take enough photographic film.

**Tour guide:** Very important. If your budget allows, it is better to hire a tour guide. There are many places without a clearly seen path, but experienced tour guides will know the way.

### Travel gear:

1. Everyone should prepare a rock-climbing harness and an eight-point ring for passing through rock gaps.
2. Prepare at least four ropes in the team, with one at least 50 metres long. The others can be 30, 20, and 15 metres long.
3. Prepare pulleys for pulling teammates upward in case they cannot climb the cliff.
4. Prepare every kind of emergency aid medicines, instruments and snake medicine.
5. Personal items: electronic articles (camera, video camera, mobile) and a water-resistant bag for holding film; a water- and cold-resistant jacket; a pair of water-resistant climbing shoes. Bring compressed solid food to minimize the load. Since there will be adequate water in the valley, it is enough to prepare a bottle of water. When ascending the mountain, one should wear long-sleeve clothes and long trousers.





Throughout the ages, history has been written by those who dared to follow their dreams and journey to new lands and new experiences.

Kent Chung, the general planner for the itinerary of "Entering Africa" — a full-length travel documentary programme by Phoenix TV, opened up his own travelling world with a strong desire to make his dreams a reality.



# Kent Chung

## A Journey of Dreams

Photos & article by Kit Chu (some provided by Kent Chung)

When I arrived at the "temporary office" of Phoenix TV on the coast of Hung Hom, from which the Victoria Harbour can be viewed, all I could see were spread maps, books, and papers. The tight working atmosphere made a delightful contrast to the peaceful harbour outside. Kent and his crew were busy preparing for the trip to Africa.



### Born to Travel

Kent Chung is well-known among Hong Kong travel buffs. He was one of the earliest DIY travellers in the territory. In his younger days, he spent six years travelling alone, leaving his footprints in the Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe and Americas. Now he uses his rich travel experience to make TV programmes. He has been nicknamed "Travel Chung".

"Why am I called 'Travel Chung'? It's because I was asked to

create a name for myself when I hosted a travel programme for RTHK (Radio Television Hong Kong) a few years ago. Since I like travelling, I named myself 'Travel Chung' naturally.

"My work has always been related to travel. In 1987, I worked for the Hong Kong Student Travel Ltd. after returning to Hong Kong to promote and develop the tourist industry; in 1992, I helped the Travel Department of the Hong Kong Social Services Centre to restructure their business. In 1995, I worked for the Hong Kong China Tourism Press, helping them to create a new image and raise their profits. Later, I was a travel business consultant for foreign tourism bureaus and travel agencies, helping them to establish marketing strategies and promotions. In 2000, I entered the Shun Tak Group and was responsible for establishing travel websites and agencies. I have also worked for the RTHK, TVB, Cable TV as an anchorman of travel programmes. At the moment, I am planning some large-scale cross-country travel documentaries for Phoenix TV. I will be the tour guide."

In December 2001, Kent, the Project Manager, led a film crew of 20 people on "Pole to Pole Expedition", a documentary



production by Phoenix TV and China Central TV (CCTV). They spent seven months travelling from the South Pole to the North Pole, visiting over 20 countries and districts, and successfully shooting the customs and their experiences in these places. The crew was the first in China's TV history to cross the Americas. But what made Kent willing to give up a well-paid, stable job at Shun Tak Group and dedicate himself to this relatively arduous, unstable work in his mid-40s?

"I had no choice because I liked the project so much. Not only could I plan the whole trip, I could also take part in the organisation, which had been my dream over the years."

## Realizing Youthful Dreams

"In the early 1980s, with the help of CCTV, a Japanese broadcast company shot the 'Silk Road', which held the imagination of the world and triggered a Silk Road rush. I had been travelling abroad for three years alone. One day I saw the programme as I passed through China Town. Suddenly, I felt depressed: Why was the China part of the Silk Road reported by the Japanese, not the Chinese? Therefore, I began to dream that one day I would lead a team of Chinese to shoot the Silk Road. That would have been great! It was no more than a dream, but this dream was always on my mind."

"My relationship with Phoenix TV dates back to 2000 when the shooting of 'Millennium Odyssey' began. They wanted to make a programme that crossed the four ancient countries of civilization, introducing ancient civilization from the East and the West. As they were almost ready, the TV station invited me to assist in planning the itinerary. We cooperated again later. I was responsible for planning the whole trip for the 'Europe Odyssey'.

"After the shooting of 'Millennium Odyssey', I asked the station vice-captain of



1. After "Pole to Pole Expedition", Kent Chung has joined the crew of "Entering Africa"
2. Planning the itinerary is the main job of "Travel Chung"
3. From his DIY travel experiences, Chung has learnt how to communicate with people of different races
4. "Pole to Pole Expedition" has realized Chung's long-anticipated dream
5. A pair of glasses is the legacy of an arduous trip



Phoenix TV where he planned to go the next time. He joked about trekking the Maritime Silk Road. An idea flashed in my brain-how about travelling along the 'Silk Road of the Americas'? In fact, there is no such route. However, there is the Pan-American Highway. The highway starts in southernmost South America and stretches to Central and North America along the coastline. Trade between Central and South America depends on this road. Eventually, we decided to extend the route to the two Poles.

"Then, six months later, someone from the TV station told me that the plan had been accepted. Though I was quite doubtful and nervous, I felt wonderful. However, I had a dilemma. My job at Shun Tak Group was well paid, and the

shooting was only one project. I would be unemployed after the shooting. After comparing the pros and cons of the two jobs, I finally decided to accept the project and resign.

"I was scolded by my boss after offering my resignation letter. Who would give up such a good job nowadays? However, I was captivated by the cultures and customs of Central and South America (Latin America). So I forgot everything and just went."

## The Rough Road to Success

*The start was ignited by a genuine enthusiasm, but Chung had never foreseen the problems awaiting him on the seven-month journey.*

"My work begins with a map. When they say 'action', I take out a map, arranging the itinerary, listing the destinations and what is worth filming. Then I give the list to the location-director and director. After making several changes, I hear everyone's opinions and write the basic plan for the shooting. Next, I have to contact the reception units at every place, arrange bed and board, transport, daily routes, as

*"Why was the China part of the Silk Road reported by the Japanese, not the Chinese?"*







well as manage various problems en route. Basically, I am a 'general fixer'.

"The problems from work are never troublesome, but those made by people are. There can be lots of struggles because of cultural contrasts. For example, when we were in the United States, though we had our cars, we still hired local drivers in every city we visited to save time because they were more familiar with the roads. But the Americans and Chinese are different. Once they agreed to work for eight hours, they were not willing to work overtime, even if we paid more. However, the director did not care about this. He made changes whenever there was fine weather and light. It was impossible to work eight hours routinely. As a middleman, I could only try to persuade both parties. Or we found a driver who was willing to work overtime.

"Another example was passing through the Customs in South America. Since there were many cases of illegal Chinese immigrants, some South American countries were especially sensitive to holders of Chinese passports. Some of my teammates from the Chinese mainland who had a strong sense of dignity and national pride became impatient. If both sides were unfriendly to each other, how could we continue our trip? Therefore, I needed to calm them down and solve the problem.

"Different problems happened every day. Sometimes, the director changed the plans that had been confirmed already. When I thought of some new topics or places, he changed back to the former plan. I've never faced so many problems in

*"If you are afraid,  
don't go.  
If you go,  
then don't be afraid!"*

my life before. Whenever a new problem arose, I just had to face it. Towards the end of the trip, my attitude had completely changed — I am used to tackling problems."

### Older and Wiser

*After saying this, Kent shows me the white hairs that have appeared on his head, and waves his glasses with a bitter smile, saying, "They are all legacies from 'Pole to Pole Expedition'." But wasn't it a valuable experience to retrace his journey from years before?*

"During the trip to Central and South America, I was enveloped by mixed feelings. Many years ago, I travelled to these places alone. But today I am leading a group with a car. It is really amazing.

"When I travelled to Turkey at that time, I made the acquaintance of a brother and sister from Chile. We became very good friends. When I was leaving, they gave me their addresses. Only when I visited them in Chile a few months later did I learn that they were local celebrities. However, they were still very enthusiastic. They showed me around and took care of my bed and board during the trip, the happiest month of the whole trip. When I arrived Chile this time, I tried to find them. Unfortunately, they had moved. Still, the hospitality of Chileans is impressive.

"I had another unforgettable adventure in Brazil this time. One night when we finished the shooting in Rio de Janeiro, the local tour guide invited us to have dinner in a restaurant. Surprisingly, it was where I had been a waiter once before. The owner's wife only recognized me after a long look, but her younger brother did at once.

One year on Christmas Eve, I wanted to wait for the opening of a local carnival. Since I wanted to save money, I found this restaurant and asked to work for them. I didn't mind the pay, the only thing I asked was that I had to leave the day before the carnival. At last, I worked for two months. It





seems like yesterday.

"In conclusion, though this project was very hard, it was not painful. Having worked for a few months, we all became friends. And I've learnt that I can still achieve my goals at this age. I feel very satisfied."

## The Dreams Go On

*Chung sitting before me is full of weariness, but his satisfied expression and strong spirit*

*are still shining brightly on his face.*

*This year, he has agreed to lead the film crew for the programme "Entering Africa", a joint project by Phoenix TV and CCTV. It will be a greater challenge.*

"I predict that this African trip will be 40% harder than the 'Pole to Pole Expedition'. As an undeveloped place, there will be bad living conditions and inadequate communication facilities. Lots of African countries suffer from conflict, pestilence, bad public security, and many other problems. As we went to attend a meeting in Beijing last week, we met a Chinese medical team that had just returned from Africa. A correspondent of the *People's Daily* on the team told us that it was impossible to have lived in Africa for three years without being robbed. There is a higher possibility of being robbed in more densely populated cities. It isn't safe living in suburban areas either because there will be lots of mosquitoes. I just tell my teammates: If you are afraid, don't go. If you go, then don't be afraid.

"Personally, my dream was realized during the last trip. So I don't have a great passion for the African trip. But I regard this as a great job



1. "Travel Chung" with kids in the Sahara Desert in North Africa
2. What a wonderful world!
3. The backpacking days
4. Dining out in New Delhi, India
5. What's on the menu?
6. The traveller has begun the journey of fatherhood

and very challenging. The trip may be stopped for various reasons. Due to inconvenient communication, we may have to make decisions before receiving the orders from the boss. Equipped with the experiences from the last trip, I believe that I can deal with them.

"A total of 20 people will head to eastern Africa on three routes from the north, south, and west, and join in Tanzania. It is supposed to take about three and a half months. I've been to all the countries on this route, except the Republic of Angola. And I am most worried about this place, since I've heard there are many land mines. Now we are all ready for the trip and everyone's is full of anticipation. Even if you tell them that they could be killed, they won't be frightened."

*Chung is chasing a life in which he dares to make dreams and face challenges or adventures. Perhaps the wild seed was planted in his heart in his younger days. What advice does he give to younger generations if they are trying to choose between travel and a career?*

"First of all, ask yourself whether or not you have the passion for long-term travel. If you have such a passion, then go and forget the worries. Or you will feel regretful for the rest of your life. It is more reasonable to go if you are unemployed, since you have a great deal of time. Based on my experience, your horizons will be broadened after experiencing the hardships en route. You will become a unique individual and work harder afterwards. These are all your own qualities."

## The Most Important Journey

From the very outset, Kent Chung gives a confident and strong impression. But at last he reveals a soft spot. Once he remarked in a book he published in 1996 that his ideal life was to save enough money to retire at the age of 55 and tour around the world again. When I ask whether he still has this dream, he shows me a picture. The little boy with a lovely smile and round face is his five-year-old son. Chung then says that travelling around the world is not so important to him now. What he treasures is time with his family.

Life is also a journey with different scenes in different parts and sometimes the most meaningful experiences are at home.







# Flying Through Shanghai

## The Transrapid Maglev Train

*Photos by Yong He, He Ping    Article by Liu Jing*

The operation of the world's fastest train, with a speed of 450 km per hour, in Shanghai earlier this year drew many eager residents for a ride. This pushed the standard ticket rate of 150 yuan up to 1,000 yuan. When the initial craze subsided and ticket speculators finished their business, tickets became more readily available. If you want to experience travel in a magnetically levitated train, the moment has come.







**T**he Shanghai Transrapid Train, still in its trial period, operates for the public only on weekends. Passengers can only purchase return tickets and ride the train non-stop from terminal to terminal. The starting point is the Longyang Station in the New Pudong Area and the finish is Pudong International Airport. To cover the entire 33 km it takes only eight minutes. In most cases, the normal speed for a levitated train is above 300 km, but it can reach 450 to 500 km an hour.

The carriage in the front is for the VIPs with double seats on each side of the aisle. Between each two rows of seats is an oblong-shaped table. Sitting on the bright yellow high-back chair, one can easily reach the overhead buttons to regulate lighting or call the conductor. In the standard carriages, there are three seats in elegant blue on each side of the aisle. Each carriage is complete with a luggage rack.

Together the three carriages can accommodate about 200 passengers. When the service is fully operational along the entire line in September this year, a train will leave every 10 minutes from each terminal and each train will pull five carriages.

At Longyang Station stands a huge arched building supported by a steel beam. This is the heart of the magnetic levitation railway — the Central Control Room. The energy for the levitation train comes from the rail which is supported by the world's most advanced direct synchronized power generator, which provides electricity section by section for the rail, only when and where the train needs it. All of this is controlled by computer programming in the Central Control Room. As a result, the train has no driver, as the real control stays in the control room.

Compared with traditional high-speed trains, the magnetically levitated train has four other advantages. First, it is low in energy consumption. It consumes only half of what it takes to make a car move or one-quarter of what it takes to make a plane fly. Second, it is quick to start, strong in ascent and flexible in routes. Third, it is safe, comfortable and easy to maintain. And fourth, it produces no exhaust. When running, it does not have the kind of friction between the wheel and rail as with ordinary trains, thus making it more environmental friendly.



1. The Transrapid Maglev Train can reach an hourly speed of 450 km, making it the fastest means of land transport (by He Ping)
2. The modern platform is bright and elegant (by Yong He)
3. What a speed! (by Yong He)
4. Flying along the railway gives a sense of great excitement (by Yong He)
5. The comfortable carriage is more spacious than an airplane cabin (by Yong He)



# The Hawaii of the East

Photos & article by Mehdi Chebil Link



*Every country has its own getaway place, where people go to escape city bustles and freezing winters. China has even better: a subtropical island where visitors can enjoy a yearlong springtime, with temperatures always warm but never too hot. As the real spring season came later than expected this year, I decided to join two overseas students from Guangzhou for a trip to Hainan Island.*

We took a ferry from the south of Guangdong, and the cruise was only one hour and a half, with the South China Sea being as flat as a lake. Onboard, some passengers were looking incredibly excited by the cruise and they explained us it was the first time they had travelled on such a big boat. A look at our travel map made us very enthusiastic. Sanya, the southernmost town in China, is located at about the same longitude as Hawaii — a guarantee of a tropical paradise!

Still, the first thing that surprised us when we arrived in Sanya was how lightly dressed were the locals. Even late in the evening, they are walking the streets in T-shirts, and many are wearing Hawaiian shirts—bright colourful clothes with beach motif patterns. Footwear consists mainly of sandals and flip-flops, and many girls are wearing skirts. For people coming from big cities, it doesn't take long to feel a much quieter pace of life. Especially during the hottest part of the day, it seems that business activities are seriously slowing down. Hawkers are gathering under the shade of palm trees, and fruit sellers withdrawing into their shops.

Sanya's streets become more lively at night, when people take advantage of the cooler temperatures to go out shopping, eating,

playing chess or mahjong. As we were walking up the Xinfeng Bridge across the Sanya River, disco lights coming from the top of a tall building caught our attention and drew us up there. After passing through a teahouse with a concert hall, we arrived on the roof where a large outdoor dance floor was surrounded by dozens of dining tables. The sight of people feasting and dancing outside, with the background of the river reflecting the city lights, represented for me the spirit of Sanya: warm, open, and fun loving.





Besides the climate, the beautiful environment of Sanya has also done a lot to give the town its laid-back atmosphere. The huge range of tropical fruits available gives an idea of the land's bounty. But the natural wonders that have made Sanya famous across China remain its beaches. The two most acclaimed bathing spots around town are Dadonghai (Great East Sea) and Yalong Bay. Being only three kilometres from the town centre, Dadonghai is a large, clean beach with several swimming areas watched over by lifeguards. Except during the seasonal typhoons, the waves are pretty gentle and it's a very safe place for swimming. Yalong Bay, about 20 kms away, is the kind of place one hears about long before seeing it: Hainan islanders describe Sanya as the most beautiful place on the island, and Sanya people refer to Yalong Bay as the most beautiful sight in the province!

The bay stretches for seven kilometres and is an impressive showcase of a tropical paradise: fine sand, clear waters, small islands, coconut and palm trees... Luxury resorts are nearby, boasting colourful gardens, shaded swimming pools, and delicious cocktails. My greatest memory of Yalong Bay is meeting families from Sichuan, Chongqing, Jiangsu, Guangdong, Hunan, and Shanghai on a 200-metre strip of sand. It reinforced my impression that Hainan Island was to China what Hawaii is to the United States — a place where people from all over the country meet in a relaxing atmosphere to share sunshine filled holidays. In spite of its reputation as a destination of only five stars resorts and tour groups, Sanya is easily accessible to independent travellers. Next to the up-market hotels, there are many so-called "family hotels" where visitors can stay in private apartments turned into guesthouses. These small businesses offer nice air-conditioned rooms at unbeatable prices, allowing anybody to stay around the best beaches in the country.

It was also interesting to see that Sanya's beaches have their very own pace of life, full of contrasts. Some areas are busy with hawkers selling seashells and tourists queuing for the best photo souvenir, while other spots lie in a timeless serenity. Almost empty at midday, city beaches like Dadonghai become much more lively around 5 p.m., when school kids go to swim and people play soccer or volleyball on the



beach. Another popular activity in late afternoon is to walk on Sanya Bay. The shore is not very well maintained there, but the sight of the sun diving straight into the peaceful South China Sea compensates. It's also a dinner area with fierce competition between seafood restaurants. All along the coastal drive, restaurant hostesses dressed in fine traditional garments are waving the passing cars, inciting them to come in.



Such a booming seafood industry would not be possible without many fishermen, and we decided to finish our visit of Sanya by going south to meet them. As soon as we entered the small Sanya Harbour, fishermen could be seen everywhere, unloading the catch of the day, tidying their nets, or cutting up bigger fish. The horizon was obstructed by

dozens of old fishing boats with Chinese red flags shining in the twilight. Looking at this scene, we had the feeling that we had truly reached the most southern place in China. A place that exiled Tang- and Song-Dynasty officials used to call "the End of the earth and the corner of the Sea".



1. The beach at Yalong Bay is so long that anyone can find a quiet spot
2. Old ladies sell pearl and seashell necklaces on the beaches
3. Markets in Sanya are a colourful experience with many delicious tropical fruits available
4. Being buried in sand is the most common beach game
5. Playing soccer on the beach is a popular pastime for young Sanya men



## Hotels in Jiangsu

City	Name	Star	Address	Tel	Fax
Nanjing	Central Hotel	****	75 Zhongshan Rd, Nanjing	(25) 4733888	(25) 4733999
	Xuanxu Hotel	****	193 Zhongyang Rd, Nanjing	(25) 3303888	(25) 3369800
	Paradise Hotel Nanjing	***	238 Zhongshan Rd S, Nanjing	(25) 4403818	(25) 4404140
	Zhongshan Hotel Nanjing	***	200 Zhongshan Rd, Nanjing	(25) 3361888	(25) 3377228
Suzhou	Bamboo Grove Hotel	****	Zhuhui Rd, Suzhou	(512) 5205601	(512) 5208778
	New City Garden Hotel	****	Shishan Rd, Suzhou	(512) 8250228	(512) 8256258
	New World Aster Hotel	****	156 Sanxiang Rd, Suzhou	(512) 8291888	(512) 8291938
	Royal Garden Hotel Suzhou	***	99 Renmin Rd S, Suzhou	(512) 5251621	(512) 5252313
	Suzhou Overseas Chinese Hotel	***	Sanxiang Rd, Suzhou	(512) 5334011	(512) 7231264
Wuxi	Jin Jiang Hotel	****	218 Zhongshan Rd, Wuxi	(510) 2751688	(510) 2758168
	Pan Pacific Hotel	****	1 Liangqing Rd, Wuxi	(510) 5806789	(510) 2700991
	Wuchan Hotel Wuxi	***	185 Renmin Rd C, Wuxi	(510) 2701118	(510) 2728687
	Xishan Jincheng Hotel	***	1 Yingbin Rd, Jinchengwan, Wuxi	(510) 5402912	

## Hotels in Zhejiang

City	Name	Star	Address	Tel	Fax
Hangzhou	Dragon Hotel Hangzhou	****	Shuguang Rd, Hangzhou	(571) 7998833	(571) 7998090
	Wanghu Hotel	****	2 Huancheng Rd W, Hangzhou	(571) 7071024	(571) 7071350
	Friendship Hotel	***	53 Pinghai Rd, Hangzhou	(571) 7077888	(571) 7073842
	International Hotel	***	333 Tiychang Rd, Hangzhou	(571) 5156224	(571) 5174201
Ningbo	South Garden Hotel	*****	2 Lingqiao Rd, Ningbo	(574) 7295678	(574) 7297788
	East Seaport Hotel	****	52 Caihong Rd N, Ningbo	(574) 7373188	(574) 7333646
	Asia Garden Hotel Ningbo	***	74 Mayuan Rd, Ningbo	(574) 7296888	(574) 7292138
	Ningbo Hotel	***	65 Mayuan Rd, Ningbo	(574) 7321688	(574) 7321618
Shaoxing	Haigang Hotel Shaoxing	***	639 Jiefang Rd S, Shaoxing	(575) 8051818	(575) 8062457
	Shangyu Hotel	***	Xinhe Rd, Baiguan Town, Shaoxing	(575) 2012211	(575) 2012165
	Shaoxing Hotel	***	9 Huanshan Rd, Shaoxing	(575) 5155888	(575) 5155565
	Shunjie Hotel Shaoxing	***	Shangyu Development Zone, Shaoxing	(575) 2011222	(575) 2011401
Wenzhou	Ouchang Hotel Wenzhou	***	71 Xueshan Rd, Wenzhou	(577) 8528888	(577) 8528777
	Overseas Chinese Hotel Wenzhou	***	17 Xinhe St, Wenzhou	(577) 8223911	(577) 8229656



# Flights to and from Hangzhou

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Chengdu — Hangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0730	0950	MU5408
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1720	1950	F65656
Hangzhou — Chengdu	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2030	2300	MU5407
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1335	1625	F65655
Fuzhou — Hangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1910	2005	F65904
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0840	0935	MF8562
Hangzhou — Fuzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1745	1830	F65903
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1015	1120	MF8561
Guangzhou — Hangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1605	1800	CZ3502
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0915	1100	CZ3522
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1230	1415	CZ3512
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1910	2100	F65932
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1115	1300	F65950
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0810	0950	FM 351
Hangzhou — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1905	2055	CZ3501
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1200	1340	CZ3521
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1505	1645	CZ3511
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1625	1815	F65931
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0840	1025	F65949
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1040	1225	FM 352

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Kumming — Hangzhou	1 2 3 5 7	1235	1540	F65936
	4 6	1825	2210	F65816
Hangzhou — Kumming	1 2 3 5 7	0825	1145	F65935
	4 6	1355	1735	F65936
Qingdao — Hangzhou	3 6	2050	2215	F65818
	2 5 7	2010	2130	F65982
	2 4 7	1120	1235	MF8526
	3 5	1635	1810	MF8526
	1 6	1805	1930	MF8556
Hangzhou — Qingdao	3 6	1350	1515	F65817
	2 5 7	1350	1505	F65981
	2 4 7	0915	1040	MF8525
	3 5	1445	1555	MF8525
	1 6	1540	1655	MF8555
		1555	1720	MF8555
Shenzhen — Hangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1430	1600	CZ3556
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1205	1345	CZ3564
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0840	1025	CZ3570
Hangzhou — Shenzhen	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1650	1830	CZ3555
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1430	1625	CZ3563
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1125	1310	CZ3569

# Flights to and from Shanghai (Pudong)

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Beijing — Pudong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1850	2050	CA1921
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1935	2130	CA1929
	2 3 4 5 6 7	0815	1010	CA1935
	3	0600	0800	CA9001
Pudong — Beijing	1 3 4 5 6 7	1400	1600	CA1936
	2	2000	2200	CA9002
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0825	1025	MU5143
Changchun — Pudong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1410	1640	CJ6541
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0815	1140	CJ6543
Pudong — Changchun	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1725	2040	CJ6542
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1220	1450	CJ6544
Guangzhou — Pudong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1715	1915	MU5306
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1915	2115	MU5320
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1155	1355	MU5380
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0825	1030	MU5317
Pudong — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1415	1615	MU5305
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1615	1825	MU5319
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0855	1055	MU5379
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1110	1310	MU5318
Haikou — Pudong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0745	1015	HU7120
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1735	2000	HU7220

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1905	2125	HU7320
Pudong — Haikou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1055	1330	HU7119
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0805	1040	HU7219
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1850	2105	HU7319
Kumming — Pudong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1615	1850	SZ4518
Pudong — Kumming	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1935	2225	SZ4517
Shenzhen — Pudong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1740	1945	MU5368
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0800	0955	MU5370
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1150	1355	MU5340
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0700	0900	MU5335
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1130	1330	FM 374
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1730	1930	FM 376
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1910	2110	FM 378
Pudong — Shenzhen	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1440	1640	MU5367
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2100	2300	MU5369
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0855	1055	MU5339
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2000	2200	MU5336
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0835	1035	FM 373
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1425	1635	FM 375
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1610	1800	FM 377

\* For reference only.

## Airline codes:

CA= Air China

MF= Xiamen Airlines Co Ltd

CJ= China Northern Airlines

MU= China Eastern Airlines

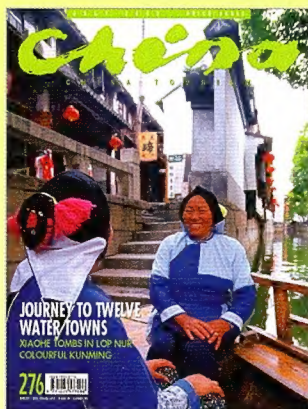
CZ= China Southern Airlines

SZ= China Southwest Airlines

FM= Shanghai Airlines

F6= CNAC-Zhejiang Airlines





# Readership Survey

*China Tourism* always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

**Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of *China Tourism*.**

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
A Slow Boat Through China's Water Towns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colourful Kunming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In Search of the Xiaohe Tombs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blurred Recollections of Southeast Guizhou	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kent Chung: A Journey of Dreams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tips for the Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Opinions:					

Name: (Mr./Ms./Mrs.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of trips to China in the last 5 years: \_\_\_\_\_

## Where (how) did you first see *China Tourism*?

- ☐ Subscription    ☐ Newsstand or bookstore  
☐ Hotel    Name: \_\_\_\_\_    ☐ Others \_\_\_\_\_

## Main purpose for reading *China Tourism*?

- ☐ Planning trips    ☐ General interest in China's customs, scenery, etc.    ☐ Business  
☐ Tourist Trade purposes    ☐ Others \_\_\_\_\_

## What do you like most about *China Tourism*?

Are you happy with the factual content of *China Tourism*?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

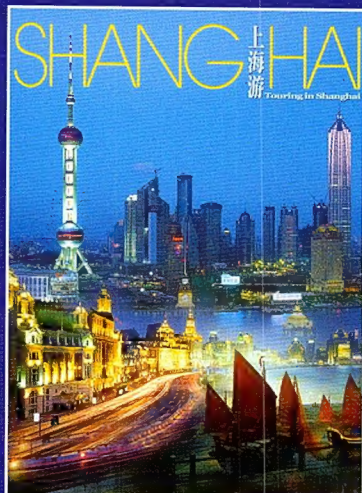
## What are your suggestions for improvement?

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve *China Tourism* magazine for you.

\*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.

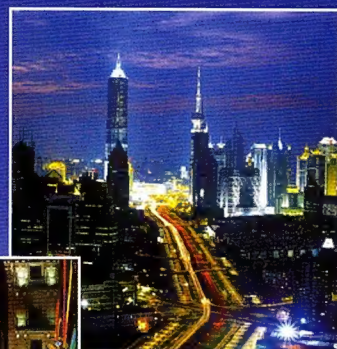


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